

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION, BY REQUEST, OF BILLS TO REAUTHORIZE THE PROGRAMS OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION AND APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, by request and with the bipartisan leadership of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee—Ranking Member OBERSTAR, Public Buildings and Economic Development Subcommittee Chairman KIM, and Ranking Subcommittee Member TRAFICANT—two administration bills to reauthorize the programs of the Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The administration bills form a good starting point for reauthorization and reform of the programs of both of these agencies. In particular, I am pleased to note that the legislation incorporates many of the reforms in the reauthorization bill (H.R. 2145) reported by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee last Congress.

Both of these agencies enjoy broad, bipartisan support in the House. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is prepared to move in an expeditious manner to consider the relevant issues and report reauthorization legislation. It is my expectation that the authorization will be combined into one bill, as has been the custom of the committee.

COMMEMORATING THE 82D ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand and join with my colleagues in commemorating the 82d anniversary of the Armenian genocide. I would like to thank the other members of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and particularly the cochairmen Mr. PORTER and Mr. PALLONE, for their tireless efforts in organizing this fitting tribute.

On April 24, 1915, 82 years ago today, the nightmare in Armenia began. Hundreds of Armenian religious, political, and educational leaders were arrested, exiled, or murdered. These events marked the beginning of the systematic persecution of the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire, and also launched the first genocide of the 20th century. Over the next 8 years, 1.5 million Armenians were put to death and 500,000 more were exiled from their homes. These atrocities are among the most cruel and inhumane acts that have ever been recorded.

As we reflect today on the horrors that were initiated 82 years ago, I cannot help but be disturbed by those who wish to deny that these deeds occurred. Despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary—eyewitness accounts, official archives, photographic evidence, diplomatic reports, and testimony of survivors—they reject the claim that genocide, or any other crime for that matter, was perpetrated against Armenians. Well, history tells a different story.

Let me read a quote from Henry Morgenthau, Sr., U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire at the time: "When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and, in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact * * *"

The world knows the truth about this tragic episode in human affairs. We will not allow those who wish to rewrite history to absolve themselves from responsibility for their actions. This evening's event here in the House of Representatives is testament to that fact. I would like to once again thank the organizers of this event and I would like to once again reaffirm my sincere thanks for being given the opportunity to participate in this solemn remembrance.

HONORING RAOUL WALLENBERG AND LILLIAN HOFFMAN

HON. DAN SCHAEFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today at 10:30 a.m. at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the U.S. Postal Service will unveil its new postage stamp honoring Raoul Wallenberg. This is a fitting tribute to a great man whose contributions to humanity deserve to live on in perpetuity.

Raoul Wallenberg was a young Swedish diplomat who risked his own life in rescuing many tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews during World War II. Through great acts of personal bravery, Wallenberg saved many would-be victims of the Nazi executioners by providing Swedish protective passports to thousands of Jews he had never met. He pulled some out of death trains and others from the ranks of death marches.

In one notable incident, Wallenberg, a slightly built 32-year-old, boldly threatened a Nazi general preparing to bomb a Jewish ghetto to the ground. Through this intervention alone, some 70,000 Jews were saved from death. He demonstrated how a strong character and unwavering determination could force even the brutal Nazi occupiers to spare some of the Hungarian Jews who had been marked for death.

Upon the cessation of hostilities in World War II, Wallenberg's trials did not likewise end. Because of his implacable hostility to-

ward oppression, Soviet military officials persecuted him and ultimately arrested him early in 1945. After his incarceration, he disappeared into the Soviet gulag prison camp, never to emerge again. Though the Soviets claimed in 1957 that he had died in 1947 of a heart attack, reliable eyewitnesses report sightings of Wallenberg long after that year. To this day, no one outside of Russia knows what truly happened to Wallenberg, whether he is still alive, or when he may have died.

On this occasion, it is wholly appropriate to also honor the hard work and dedication of the late Lillian Hoffman of Denver, CO, who worked tirelessly to ensure that Wallenberg's contributions to the world lived on. She purchased and donated the bronze bust of Raoul Wallenberg that currently resides in the Capitol rotunda. During her own distinguished lifetime, Lillian spent more than two decades working to further the cause of human rights wherever they were in danger or violated. Continuing the legacy of Raoul Wallenberg, Lillian chaired the Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry. In this capacity, Lillian personally assisted numerous people who were persecuted in Russia and the Soviet Union because of their religious beliefs. She helped them obtain exit visas so they could begin new lives in freedom in Israel and the United States. It was one of the most enjoyable experiences of my career knowing and working closely with Lillian for so many years. Her passing, like that of Wallenberg's, was mourned by all freedom and tolerance loving peoples around the world.

So, today it is fitting to salute both Raoul Wallenberg for his humanitarian deeds and Lillian Hoffman for her generosity in donating the bust of Raoul Wallenberg to the people of the United States. In Raoul and Lillian's honor, we must never forget what transpired during that dark chapter in human history, nor the shining acts of personal bravery that guided us through it. By so doing, both Raoul and Lillian will live on through all of us.

HONORING 50 YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today honoring Mr. Robert E. Waxman, a career civilian with the Department of the Navy.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 50 years, Bob Waxman has and continues to serve this Nation and the U.S. Navy with his unceasing commitment to excellence. Today, I pause to pay tribute to this great public servant because it is apparent that Bob Waxman has no intentions of slowing down any time in the near future. There are many measures to examine the life and labors of an individual. Some would point to aptitude, attitude, or the

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

extent of achievements accumulated. However, although these are typically the norm, it has been said: "The measure of a man is not intellect or natural talent, but what does it take to make a man quit."

Mr. Speaker, the individual I salute today is an extraordinary leader within our civil service. Robert E. Waxman grew up in Baltimore, MD, and began his illustrious career in the Army Air Corps during World War II, serving 24 months as a flight officer. Bob Waxman first arrived in southern Maryland in June 1949 as a student aid working at the Naval Air Test Center at Patuxent River, MD. After graduating from the University of Maryland in June 1950, he worked briefly for the Army Signal Depot in Baltimore as a laboratory electronics mechanic until accepting a full-time position on January 15, 1951, at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station as an electronic engineer.

By the mid-1950's, Bob Waxman was the chief engineer for the Navy air navigation electronics project, a group of 57 personnel sharing a hangar at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD. In 1958, he was named as the technical director of this organization which grew to become a separate command at Webster Field, St. Ingoes, MD. Incredibly, he still is the head of the same basic organization which has undergone many reorganizations and grown tremendously under his leadership. Today, his entity encompasses 500,000 square feet of administrative and laboratory space on station and another 400,000 square feet off station laboratory. At its peak in 1991 prior to the base realignment and closure process, this organization had 2,861 personnel, of which 353 were civil servants, and the other 2,508 were support contractors. With less than 350 civil servants, his organization grew to a peak business base in fiscal year 1994 of \$566 million total obligational authority.

Mr. Speaker, I want to bring this story to the attention of others because it is a tremendous success story of how entrepreneurial civil service managers can be in our Government. Long before U.S. managers in Government and the private sector began embracing the principles of Dr. Edwards Deming and other management gurus, Bob Waxman was applying those techniques touted today as necessary for success. Empowering employees is a technique that has been a hallmark of Bob Waxman's since he became a manager in the early 1950's driving decisionmaking to the lowest levels of the organization.

His management philosophy drove his organization to grow its business base rapidly even during times when he could not hire additional civil servants, never exceeding 400 civil servants. Through partnering with the private sector, Mr. Waxman continued to accept new customers and new business while delivering excellent service to a very broad and diverse customer base. As a result of the innovative business approaches he has applied, this small Navy organization supports, they today have a long and diverse list of customers including many non-DoD agencies. Bob Waxman's management philosophy should serve as the model for any agency today when the Government is being asked to do more with less.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Waxman is one of the Government's most productive managers. Even today, long after he could have retired and made much more money in the private

sector, he continues to lead by example. It would be difficult to find a manager either in the Government or in the private sector who has more energy, enthusiasm, and drive than Bob Waxman. He has always sought to achieve and operate similar to a private business. He has maintained throughout his career that the only way to survive in a competitive environment is to ensure that the maximum amount of each dollar is spent delivering a product to the customer and not for covering unnecessary overhead expenses. As a result, his leadership has been identified as having one of the lowest overhead rates of any Government organization, averaging 20 to 22 percent.

Maintaining a lean operation has enabled Bob Waxman and the St. Ingoes organization to successfully compete against the private sector in the late 1970's for the communications equipment installation for all AEGIS class ships. Since the successful bid, they have delivered over 50 ships without ever missing a cost or time schedule and without any claims against them. This outstanding record has resulted in 14 consecutive AEGIS Excellence Awards.

It is obvious that Mr. Waxman is an exemplary manager, but his personal style is also very distinguished. His philosophy has always been the open-door policy and his honest, forthright approach has been instrumental in implementing a practical equal employment opportunity environment with favorable working conditions for all. He has been a mentor to his employees and two of his former department heads became technical directors of other Navy Systems Command field activities.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding achievements and dedication of one of our Government's finest. I have had the distinct honor to have worked with Bob Waxman very closely and have enjoyed his quick wit, tireless dedication, and persistence. I am a great admirer of the tremendous work he continues to do for our great Nation and I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this truly outstanding public servant today as he celebrates 50 years of service to the U.S. Government.

His career has served as an inspiration to countless managers, both in the public and private sectors. His dedication and love for his job is a rarity today. Not many people can claim to have remained as the manager of an entity for as many years as he has, persevering through several challenging attempts to close it. Through all this, Bob Waxman has accrued over 4,400 hours of sick leave and lives by the motto: "putting in a full, day's work for a full day's pay". Bob Waxman's leadership and loyalty remind us all that it truly is greater to give than receive. His ongoing service and sacrifice continues to renew and remind us all that the human spirit was never intended to be selfish but selfless.

THE JAMES JOYCE RAMBLE: A FINE ARTS RUNNING EVENT

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the James Joyce Ramble, a 10K

race held in Dedham, MA, that artfully accomplishes a dual celebration of both Irish literary heritage and athletic prowess. The 14th Ramble will take place on April 27, 1997. This year's event will commemorate the 75th publication anniversary of "Ulysses," James Joyce's vivid portrayal of a typical day in Dublin through the experiences of the main character, Leopold Bloom.

The race not only extols the memory of James Joyce but also donates all proceeds from sponsors and entry fees a very worthy cause, the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. The funds raised through the Ramble will support the cancer institute's life-saving research, which will bring us one step closer to a cure for this disease that has tragically affected so many of our families and friends.

Not merely a charity event, the race also calls attention to human rights violations in various nations. In the past, each James Joyce Ramble has focused on one particular author whose writings have entreated for respect for human rights. Writers recognized previously include Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia, Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma, and Xu Wenli of China. This year the race has been dedicated to Wei Jingsheng, a jailed Chinese author who has used the pen as a powerful tool to decry social and political injustice in his homeland.

Again, I applaud the organizers of the James Joyce Ramble—and wish all the participants a competitive race.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM GAITER

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Mr. William L. Gaiter.

Mr. Gaiter dedicated his life to building a better community for all. His love for the community was exhibited through his tireless commitment to social change and civil rights for everyone.

As an activist and civil rights leader, Mr. Gaiter was instrumental in improving the quality of education in Buffalo by persuading the Board of Education to establish the BUILD Academy—Build Unity, Independence, Liberty, and Dignity—of which he served as president.

Along with Claudia Sims and Judson Price, Mr. Gaiter organized the first Juneteenth Festival, a western New York celebration of African-American culture.

In addition, Mr. Gaiter served as Erie County's equal employment opportunity coordinator in 1983, and headed the Student Timeout for Academic Renewal [STAR] counseling program.

Mr. Gaiter touched the lives of people both in the United States and beyond. In 1984, as organizer of the Western New York Council for African Relief, Mr. Gaiter selected an African community, and developed cultural, economic, and social ties between it and western New York. He led a delegation to the Senegalese village of Malika to deliver money raised by 47,000 Buffalo schoolchildren. Mr. Gaiter's exceptional life of community service and activism serves as an example of what we should all be about—love, love of God, and love for our fellow man.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with the city of Buffalo, and indeed, our entire western New York community, to honor Mr. Gaiter, a true community leader. I would also like to convey to the Gaiter family my deepest sympathies, and ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me in a moment of silence.

REMEMBERING CHAD W.
SCHUBERT OF DOVER, OH

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Chad W. Schubert of Dover, OH, and to extend my sympathies to his parents, Joe and Kathy Schubert, and to his brother Joey and sister Heather.

Chad passed away following an industrial accident on March 28, 1997. He had volunteered his time and energy on my congressional campaigns, and was always willing to do anything he could to help. Chad showed his dedication to the community and to others through his graduating from Traynor's Police Academy in Canton, OH. I appreciate Chad's integrity and his dedication to his country and to his community.

My thoughts and sympathies are with the Schubert family for the loss of their son and brother. I am certain that these feelings are shared by everyone who was fortunate to have known Chad. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Chad Schubert and his family in their prayers. He will be missed.

MICHAEL DEGRANDIS
REMEMBERED

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note the passing of Michael DeGrandis. Mr. DeGrandis was the dean of community politics in Cleveland. He possessed a keen understanding of the political process and enabled many Clevelanders to make a difference.

Mike was born in Cleveland, where he grew in the Buckeye-Woodland neighborhood. He graduated from Cathedral Latin High School and served in the Army as a radio controller in Okinawa during the Vietnam war.

Mike worked for the city of Cleveland as a housing inspector. He then worked as an examiner with the Ohio auditor's office. Following that, he became an assistant business manager for the Cleveland public schools. Later, he served as an assistant chief deputy for the civil branch of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department.

Mike's political involvement was far reaching. He attended every Democratic convention since 1964, and was a delegate to last summer's convention in Chicago. He was also co-host of a weekly radio show, "Democratic Point of View," on WERE AM/1300. Mike was

so involved in the democratic process that he thought to make sure that the last four digits of his home phone number spelled. VOTE.

Mike understood what people cared about. He understood their hopes. He cared that their dreams were foremost in the minds of elected officials.

Mike left his wife, Irene, daughters Nicole and Michelle, and son Michael. We will all miss him greatly.

TRIBUTE TO CRIME VICTIMS

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, this month, the Nation observed Crime Victims' Rights Week, which was geared to the theme: "Let Victims' Rights Ring Across America." This annual observance is a recognition of the victims of criminal acts and an expression of confidence that we will soon have in place all the necessary legislation to ensure justice and assistance for the victims and their families.

It is gratifying to see that this important issue is being addressed by the House and Senate.

As a strong supporter of victims' rights, I take this occasion, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the work of the Capital District Coalition for Crime Victims. This organization represents the collaborative efforts of crime victims, victim advocates, victim service providers, agencies of the justice system, and my constituents in the 21st Congressional District of New York—as well as surrounding districts.

The coalition's mission is to increase public awareness about the effects of crime and victimization, and work for fair and equal treatment of those who have been victims of crime—and their families.

The coalition had its beginnings in 1988. It is chaired by Ms. Patricia Gioia, of Waterford, NY, who is also capital district chapter leader of POMC [Parents of Murdered Children], and other survivors of homicide victims. The coalition cochair is Ms. Flo Derry, coordinator of the Albany County CCVAP [Comprehensive Crime Victim Assistance Program].

This year, a major coalition event was the dedication of the Brick Memorial Walk Way at the New York State Crime Victims Memorial, located directly behind the legislative office building near the Swan and State Streets intersection in Albany. Each brick of the walk way is inscribed with the name of a crime victim.

This walk way will serve as a monument to the victims of criminal acts of violence. It also sends an important message that we shall do all in our power to protect the rights of victims of crime.

HONORING JUANITA WHITE

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor a leading citizen of the 11th

Congressional District, Ms. Juanita White, an active civic leader from the Springdale Civic Association at Bailey's Crossroads, VA. Juanita was born here in Washington, DC, and grew up in Fairfax County, where she has graciously spent her time and energy giving back to our community. Juanita has contributed over 26 years to our county school and park systems, and has always devoted herself to working with the area's children. She served as president of Missions Ministry and also of the Social Seniors of Bailey's Community Center.

Mrs. White has also been active in children's activities at the community center, and is a constant volunteer and leader for the Springdale Civic Association. This active and committed spirit is only one of the endearing qualities which will be celebrated by all her family and friends on April 26, 1997, as they gather to applaud her amazing contributions to the northern Virginia area.

I am sure her friends and family as well as all of the citizens in the 11th District of Virginia join me in wishing her well as we all share in the joy of this momentous occasion. I look forward to wishing you many happy birthdays in the future.

TRIBUTE TO COLDWATER CHAPTER OF THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the Coldwater Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star [OES]. This group has contributed to the Branch County community in countless ways. Just one of their notable contributions was hosting a welcome home reception for returning gulf war soldiers, including parades around the county and providing food for all of the veterans and their families. OES also provides generous scholarships to area students every year. These are just a few of the shining examples of the organization's dedication to the betterment of south central Michigan. While it's difficult to surmise all of OES's contributions because of their belief in anonymous charity, the group's existence has been an enormous benefit to the community.

Today, I would like to take the opportunity to do more than just recognize the Coldwater Chapter of the OES for their philanthropic works, I would also like to congratulate them as they celebrate 130 years of existence. It was in 1867 that the first members of the Order of the Eastern Star, Coldwater Chapter No. 1, began official meetings in Branch County. It is now the oldest surviving chapter in the United States, having maintained its traditions since its birth.

The Coldwater Chapter of OES has given years of priceless assistance to Branch County, MI, and it deserves our laurels. Their dedication and selflessness is truly an honor to the State of Michigan and the national Order of the Eastern Star.

SALUTE TO DR. FRANK AND ELSIE
WITMAN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Frank Witman and his wife Elsie for 28 years of outstanding service to the United Methodist Church and the community of Simi Valley, CA.

Dr. Witman, along with his wife Elsie, have dedicated their lives to helping others. Ordained in the United Methodist Church in 1957, Dr. Witman served in several congregations before being appointed pastor in charge of the Simi Valley United Methodist Church in 1969.

His involvement in the community extends beyond the doors of the church. He has been actively involved in Rotary International for over 35 years and has achieved a perfect attendance record. Dr. Witman has been a police chaplain with the Simi Valley Police Department since 1978 and a volunteer chaplain at the Simi Valley Hospital and Care Services since 1983.

In 1992, Dr. Witman began to coteach a weeklong church administration and finance class for students and pastors at the Claremont School of Theology. In addition to his practical experience, Dr. Witman was uniquely qualified to teach the course because of his role as both a member of the board of directors for the United Methodist Federal Credit Union and eventually as its chairman.

After his wife of 44 years, Dr. Witman's second love is his local church. He has served his church and community tirelessly for 28 years. He is an inspiration to all and I wish he and his wife much happiness in their retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO EDWARD CLARK

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, there are three things that are of the utmost importance to Pennsylvanians: family, religion, and work. I would like to note that amateur wrestling could be added to that category. Wrestling's zealous and fervent following in Pennsylvania is unlike any place else. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to pay tribute to a Pennsylvanian who has dedicated his life to the sport and its participants, Ed Clark.

He was recently described by a colleague as being, "A beloved and highly competent teacher, coach, and athletic director." Ed Clark graduated from Bedford High School in 1944, having been a district champion wrestler. He entered the U.S. Army and after World War II, matriculated to the Pennsylvania State University where he was a member of the wrestling team. Upon his graduation from Penn State, he returned to his boyhood home of Bedford to begin his teaching career at Bedford High School in 1950. Once there, he rejoined his old high school wrestling team, this time serving in the capacity as an assistant coach to his old mentor, Hall of Fame coach Francis "Whitney" Koontz.

By 1957, Ed Clark had become the head wrestling coach at Bedford, and served in that capacity until 1974. The teams he led as head coach compiled an incredible record of 129 wins versus only 24 losses and 1 tie. His success has contributed greatly to the legacy of Pennsylvania wrestling. Ed Clark coached Bedford to five undefeated seasons, another five seasons with only one loss, won 10 district titles, and never coached a losing team despite having consistently competed against the top teams in the region.

He also found the time to coach football and golf at Bedford High School during his career, while he retired in 1992 after teaching physical education and health for 42 years. Ed Clark's accolades as coach were duly noted when he was recently elected to the Pennsylvania Wrestling Hall of Fame. I would also like to recognize the fact that at a time when the special needs of the physically handicapped were largely ignored, Ed Clark made it a point to make the necessary adjustments and accommodations to meet the needs of those special individuals in his physical education classes.

Mr. Speaker, I will close by thanking Ed Clark for his outstanding service to the area in which he and I live. He is a true community role model and his efforts as a teacher, coach, and mentor are a testament to his firm commitment to those whose lives he has touched.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today we solemnly commemorate the massacre of Armenians in Turkey during and after the First World War. We mourn the dead, and express our condolences to their living descendants. During that terrible tragedy, an estimated 1.5 million people were killed in what historians call the first of this century's state-ordered genocides against a minority group.

While the tragic events leading to the deaths of millions of Armenians occurred at the beginning of this century, their impact on the psyche of the Armenian people, and indeed the entire world are still apparent. The effects of such atrocities on a people are never overcome. Many can still testify to the deportations and massacres of family members and friends. Others can read or view pictures of the abominations, and all Armenians, young and old, live with the knowledge that their people's existence was seriously jeopardized during the last years of the Ottoman Empire.

Mr. Speaker, the world must be reminded over and over of the brutal crimes perpetrated against the Armenian people. Unfortunately, history's lessons are not easily learned and put into practice. This century has been witness to unparalleled human suffering and unmatched human cruelty. The Armenian genocide was the first attempt to wipe out an entire people. The failure to recognize it gave Hitler confidence. Since then, we have seen the killing fields of Pol Pot, the horrors of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, and the tragedy of Rwanda.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that each of us work to ensure that our generation and future

generations never again have to bear witness to such inhuman behavior and feel the pain and suffering of an entire people. The crime of genocide must never again be allowed to mar the history of humankind, and today we stand with our Armenian brothers and sisters, not only to remember and share in their grief for those who died, but to celebrate those who are living.

VETERANS' BENEFITS CLAIMS
ADJUDICATION

HON. DAN SCHAEFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as in past Congresses, it is crucial that veterans' issues remain at the top of the agenda. Serving on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am constantly impressed by the bipartisanship that is demonstrated. This is due to the leadership of Chairman BOB STUMP and Democratic Ranking Member LANE EVANS.

One of the most pressing problems that both sides of the aisle are concentrating on is that of adjudication of veterans' benefits claims. The publication of a General Accounting Office report in September 1995, closely followed by issuance of the Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission's report in December 1996, has brought this issue to the fore. Some of the findings are truly troubling.

As of May 1995, over 450,000 veterans were waiting on decisions for their appeals for pension or compensation claims. A veteran waits, on average, 2½ years for a decision to finally be rendered.

This is unconscionable. When times are tight, an almost 3-year wait for benefits can seem like a lifetime. Especially considering that these benefits were earned through dedicated and oftentimes hazardous service to our country.

What is being done? The House Veterans' Affairs Committee has prepared a schedule to adequately address this issue in the 105th Congress. A full committee hearing to review the Adjudication Commission's report is planned for later this spring. This will allow members of the committee to further investigate the work of the Commission and to debate possible means of rectifying some of the concerns that have been raised.

An active oversight plan is also on the agenda. In fact, the committee has a list of 58 programs, agencies, and issues to follow up on. The goal of oversight is to bring any deficiencies to light so that solutions can be found to ensure that veterans' benefits are not unjustly interrupted, and to guarantee the integrity of all Veterans' Administration Programs.

The House in the 105th Congress has already taken action on H.R. 1090, a bill to allow for revision of veterans' benefits decisions based on clear and unmistakable error. This represents a minor step to ameliorating the negative impact of the backlog in adjudication claims. Cases involving clear and unmistakable errors are few, but any eliminations from the docket will be welcome. I would urge the Members of the Senate to act expeditiously on this matter.

The adjudication process for veterans' benefits claims has been recognized as an area of

immediate importance. With continued bipartisan cooperation, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee will be better able to affect a decrease in the backlog of pending cases. I pledge to continue working toward this end.

TRIBUTE TO BURT P. FLICKINGER, JR.

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Mr. Burt P. Flickinger, Jr.

Throughout his life, Burt Flickinger tirelessly dedicated himself to the enhancement of our western New York community. A prominent Buffalo businessman who began in his family's business as a floor sweeper, Mr. Flickinger led his company to national prominence as a premiere food supplier and distributor. Insistent on earning his way to the helm of his family's company, Mr. Flickinger served as a division manager, secretary, senior vice president, and eventually president.

Burt Flickinger was No. 1 in his campus school class, attended the Nichols School and Philips Exeter Academy, and graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University.

A true leader in recycling, Mr. Flickinger and his wife demonstrated a strong commitment to protecting our environment. To that end, Mr. Flickinger helped craft New York State's return-deposit recycling bill, created the Beverage Industry Collection and Sorting company [BICS] for food manufacturers and retailers, and initiated a recycling of plastics program for area supermarkets.

In 1988, Mr. Flickinger spearheaded the effort to bring the 1993 World University Games to Buffalo. By accomplishing this difficult task in his typical volunteer basis, Buffalo became the first American city to host this prestigious international event. Built for the games, Buffalo now boasts an impressive 18,000-seat football stadium at the University of Buffalo, a new aquatic center in the town of Tonawanda, and a world-class swimming pool and athletic complex at the Erie Community College City Campus, appropriately named the Burt Flickinger Athletic Center.

Mr. Flickinger also proved instrumental in the preservation and subsequent growth of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. Heading many major gifts campaigns and serving for several years as chairman of the finance and executive committees, Burt Flickinger almost single-handedly kept the orchestra from bankruptcy.

Another important project to Mr. Flickinger was the Roycroft Revitalization Corp. This nonprofit organization played a vital role in the restoration of one of western New York's most enduring landmarks, the historic Roycroft Inn.

In addition, Burt Flickinger was a four-time president of the Food Industry Council, a founding member of the Food Bank of Western New York, director, treasurer, and a founding member of the Erie Recycling Center, chairman of the New York State Food Merchants Association, and permanent chairman of the Boys Town of Italy of Western New York. In recognition of that extraordinary level of community service, Mr. Flickinger was recognized as the Buffalo News' Outstanding

Citizen in 1989, and the 1989 recipient of the University at Buffalo's Distinguished Citizen Award.

On April 21, 1997, the Buffalo community lost one of its greatest men. A man whose dedicated and charitable community service, hard work, commitment to Buffalo's development, personal strength, unparalleled integrity, and vibrant love of life serve as an inspiration to us all.

During a tribute in 1988, John Walsh III, CEO of Walsh Duffield Cos. put it best—"We see Mr. Flickinger as a humble, quiet, forceful, and thoroughly professional servant of his community, and we are educated by his kindness and compelling example of leadership."

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with the city of Buffalo, and indeed, our entire western New York community, to honor Mr. Burt P. Flickinger, Jr., who is survived by his wife, Mary Ewing Ryan Flickinger; his brother, Peter; his children, Burt III, Molly Flickinger Ford, and Catherine "Bambi" Flickinger Schweitzer; his stepchildren, Peter Ryan, David Ryan, and Molly Ewert; and his seven grandchildren and two stepgrandchildren for his dedicated service to our western New York community. To that end, I would like to convey to the Flickinger family my deepest sympathies, and ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me in a moment of silence.

We will all miss Mr. Flickinger very much.

HONORING PHIL NIEKRO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INDUCTION TO THE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen who was raised in Ohio's 18th District. The 14th winningest pitcher in the history of major-league baseball, Phil Niekro, has been voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame after a distinguished and celebrated career.

Phil Niekro has shown uncommon dedication and excellence in baseball. He learned the sport, and his famous knuckleball, from his father Phil, Sr., a sandlot player. Phil began his career in 1959 with the Milwaukee Braves' minor league team and moved to the majors full time in 1967.

Phil Niekro's career is one of achievement. On October 8, 1985, Niekro recorded his 300th victory by pitching an 8-0 four hitter for the New York Yankees against Toronto. At 46, he became the oldest major-league pitcher ever to hurl a shut-out. His accomplishments have been recognized through his selection to four All-Star teams during his tenure with the Atlanta Braves. For his fielding talents, Niekro has won five Golden Glove awards.

The Atlanta Braves Career Pitching Records is marked by Phil Niekro's accomplishments. He holds the record for most years at 20 years, most games and most games started at 740 games and 635 games respectively. He also has the most strikeouts of any other Atlanta Braves pitcher and the most wins of any right-handed pitcher.

I am honored to represent the birthplace and hometown of Phil Niekro. His consider-

able talent and stellar career are sources of pride for the residents of Ohio's 18th district. I share their pride, and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Phil Niekro on his induction to the Baseball Hall of Fame and to wish him continued success.

ON THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MILDRED AND JOHN BURDA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the enduring commitment of two people to each other on the 50th wedding anniversary of Mildred and John Burda of Ohio.

Both Mildred and John are native Ohioans; Mildred hailed from Canton, and John from Cleveland. They married in 1947, raised a family, built careers and nurtured their love for each other in the Cleveland area. John studied nights and mornings to earn his associate's degree at John Carroll University and Mildred typed his papers. John worked his way up the ladder at Cleveland Electric Illuminating, starting as a lineman and rising to supervising foreman after 40 years. Mildred raised their four children. When the youngest graduated high school, Mildred went to work as a bookkeeper at the Church of the Sacred Heart, where she worked for 15 years.

As recalled by their children, Mildred and John were always supportive of and affectionate with each other. When their young friends would come over for Mildred's chop suey, they would be treated to Mildred and John, holding hands as if they had just returned from their first date.

In retirement, both are active. They are engaged with their community as members of their parish council. They travel widely visiting children around the country. They also cross-country ski in Cleveland's snowy winters, cycle and walk.

Their enduring love for each other is a gift to all who know them. After 50 years, both Mildred and John are sure that if they had their lives to do over again, they would spend them with each other.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the millions of victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23.

Although to some it may seem a long time ago, those 8 years witnessed one of this century's darkest chapters. Before planning the final solution in Nazi Germany, Adolf Hitler said, "who remembers the Armenians?" Today's remembrance is testimony to their bravery and our memories.

On April 24, 1915, Turkish officials rounded up and murdered over 200 Armenian intellectuals in Constantinople. During the following 8 years, Armenians living under Ottoman rule

suffered the losses of their homes, their property, and eventually, their lives.

By 1923, only one in three Armenians had survived the genocide; 1.5 million Armenians were killed and half a million were deported. But to this day, the Turkish Government denies the genocide took place on Turkish soil.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my name to the list of those who will not forget the genocide and will work to make sure that future generations remember as well.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CONGRESS MUST DEBATE THE FED'S DECISION TO CUT BACK ON GROWTH

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I believe Congress is delinquent in paying too little attention to the most significant set of public policy decisions now being made in this country: namely the decision by Chairman Alan Greenspan and the rest of the Federal Open Market Committee to increase interest rates because they believe that this country has been growing too fast economically, and that we must therefore cut back on growth and job creation so as to avoid any possible increase in inflation. I should note that they maintain this even though by their own admission there is no sign of inflation currently, and even though many of them, including Chairman Greenspan, have been unduly pessimistic in the past about the impact of reduced unemployment on inflation.

Twenty-five of the twenty-six Democratic and Independent members of the Banking Committee have urged the chairman of the committee to convene a full committee hearing on the important issues raised by the Fed's decision. He has declined. I have now turned to my Republican colleagues to ask them to join in this request for a hearing. Under committee rules, if 4 of the 30 Republicans were to join us, we would have the requisite number to require that a hearing be held.

It seems to many of us essential that we convene public hearings in the Congress in which Mr. Greenspan and his colleagues can defend their decision, and in which representatives of business, organized labor, citizens groups, and others can voice their agreement or disagreement. The scope of the issues involved here was recently made very clear in a cogent article Lester Thurow, former dean of the MIT Sloan School of Management, and currently a professor of economics at the school. Because this is the single most important set of decisions now being made about the American economy, and therefore about such related issues as how we can reduce the budget deficit to zero in a socially responsible way, how we can absorb hundreds of thousands of welfare recipients into the economy, and how we can accommodate growing internationalization of our economy without increased inequity. I am inserting Professor Thurow's article here:

Alan Greenspan's move to higher interest rates in March was in and of itself unimportant—after all what can a one-quarter of 1 percent increase in interest rates do to an

economy as big as that of the United States. The real issue isn't the increase but Greenspan's history. He believes in salami tactics. In 1994 and 1995 he raised interest rates 7 times in 12 months. Each increase was small, but in the end those 7 increases doubled interest rates.

Based upon his history, financial markets know Greenspan does not like big jumps in interest rates and a small rate increase is apt to signal that a sequence of small increases has begun and that in the end those small increases will end up being a big jump in rates. Given this belief, it is not surprising the stock market started to fall in the aftermath of Greenspan's announcement.

But the issues are far more important than the ups and downs of Wall Street. Greenspan has indirectly signaled he believes that the bottom two-thirds of the American work force should continue to get the small annual real wage reductions that they have gotten over the past quarter of a century—reductions that now amount to a 20 percent fall in real wages over the past 23 years. In the most recent year for which we have complete data, 1995, real wages once again fell for both fully employed male and female workers. Median family income rose slightly, but only because both men and women worked more hours per year.

In a market economy, wages rise for only one reason—demand has to be rising faster than supply. In the past 16 years, a 2.6 percent growth rate has led to falling wages. If the economy continues on that pace, no one should expect anything different to occur in the future. Nothing has happened to change demand; nothing has happened to change supply. Yet this is precisely what Greenspan is suggesting should happen with this recent hike in interest rates.

In his view the American economy must be limited to a 2 to 2½ percent rate of growth on the grounds that this is all the economy can achieve without rekindling inflation. In this environment, the pattern of falling wages for the bottom two thirds of the American work force has to continue. Americans cannot break out of this pattern without a different growth path.

The bottom part of the American work force also needs to be reskilled and re-educated, but these programs cannot work without faster growth. With today's growth rate, real wages are falling for males at all educational levels and for women at all educational levels except those with university degrees. With today's growth rates, there is no shortage of skilled workers. To increase the supply of skilled workers and do nothing about demand would simply reduce wages faster.

If inflation were visible, perhaps one could justify drafting the bottom two thirds of the American work force to be "Inflation fighters for the U.S. of A." It would not be fair (why should they suffer all of the costs of stopping inflation), but perhaps it might be necessary. But there is no sign of inflation in any of the indexes. Greenspan and the Fed can point to none—and they do not even try to do so. Greenspan has also testified to Congress that he believes the Boskin Commission is right and that today's price indexes include at least 1.1 percentage points of exaggeration. With this correction, the lack of inflation becomes even stronger.

Nor is there any data showing that higher wages are about to lead to higher prices. The preliminary data for 1996 show a small gain in average real wages—0.2 percent—but 1996's productivity gain was five times as big. There is no economic theory under which such small wage gains far below the rate of growth of productivity can be labeled inflationary. Yet Greenspan is saying with his interest rate hike that those 1996 wage increases are too large.

Only the modern Delphic Oracle, Greenspan and the Federal Reserve Board Open Market Committee, can see the inflation in our future. Only they can see why most Americans must prepare for a future of falling wages and diminishing expectations. Ordinary mortals who must rely on real world data cannot see what they see, but then we are only mortals—not gods.

To put it bluntly and simply, such decisions ought to be unacceptable in a democracy. Decisions to lower the real wages for a majority of American voters must be decided in a democratic context. It is popular to talk about maintaining the independence of central bankers from the influence of politics, but that only makes sense if the central bankers are making sensible decisions that can be supported with hard real world data. When they ask us to believe them simply because they are wiser than we are and can see things that we cannot see, they are going beyond the appropriate bounds of any government agency in a democracy.

HONORING 100 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE—JOHNSON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, ST. PAUL, MN

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of my alma mater, Johnson Senior High School in St. Paul, MN along with the graduating class of 1997. I am proud to be an alumnus of Johnson High School, the "spirit of the East Side," as it's referred to in St. Paul. Johnson High School has been a respected institution of learning in St. Paul for the past century.

Over the years, the staff and teachers of Johnson High School have shared the gift of learning with countless thousands of students, hundreds of whom are immigrants and new Americans. Johnson High School has continued to generate pride and a sense of belonging in each new generation. The mission of Johnson High School is to be relentless in promoting education for the common good. Certainly, my interest in public service was encouraged and guided by the educators at Johnson High as well as the St. Paul community.

Johnson High School has had a close association with the community and maintains a thriving identity throughout the neighborhoods of St. Paul's East Side where many of Johnson's sons and daughters still reside, work, and participate. The success of current students at Johnson in both scholastic and athletic achievements continues to reflect a positive learning experience. This year's wrestling team was a runner-up in State competition and the Johnson team was the top academically of all State wrestling teams.

Johnson High School has had many distinguished graduates throughout the Nation and the world. Warren E. Burger, Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and Wendell Anderson, former U.S. Senator and former Governor of the State of Minnesota are both Johnson alumni. Countless other graduates have made unique contributions to the city of St. Paul, the State of Minnesota, and to the Nation as a whole.

Johnson High School has earned the right to be recognized for the contribution it has

made. I am sure my colleagues will join me and thousands of Johnson alumni, in sharing the excitement of 100 years of history. May 17, 1997, Johnson High School Centennial Day, will be proclaimed and celebrated throughout St. Paul.

**MEDICARE ANTI-FRAUD
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1997**

HON. KAREN L. THURMAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to join with the ranking member of the Health Subcommittee, Mr. STARK, and Messrs. SHAW and DAVIS in introducing the Medicare Anti-Fraud Amendments Act of 1997. We are offering this legislation to weed out unscrupulous providers in Medicare. This bill will not only protect beneficiaries and respectable providers, but also prevent the funneling of needed health care dollars into the hands of health care scam artists.

In the State of Florida, we have had tremendous success in fighting fraud in the Medicaid Program by requiring service providers such as Durable Medical Equipment suppliers, private transportation companies, non-physician-owned clinics, and home health agencies, to post a \$50,000 surety bond in order to participate in Medicaid. The bonding requirement is no obstacle to legitimate providers, but presents a serious roadblock to Medicaid scam artists. Through the bond requirement, Florida has decreased the number of DME providers 62 percent, from 4,146 to 1,565 and home health agencies have decreased 41 percent from 738 to 441; these reductions have had no impact on patient care. In fact, the surety bond requirement helped Florida to identify 49 DME providers who were using post office box numbers to bilk the Medicaid Program.

The problems Florida has identified are not unique to Medicaid. Medicare can clearly benefit from Florida's experience. Our bill requires Medicare to institute the same bonding requirement, a \$50,000 surety bond for DME providers, private transportation companies, clinics that furnish nonphysician services, and home health agencies. In addition, it requires providers to disclose all officers, directors, physicians, and principal partners owning 5 percent or more of the service.

Every Medicare dollar gained by fraudulent providers is a dollar lost for our senior citizens. We must end these scams, and surety bonds are an essential step in this fight.

**INTRODUCTION OF EUROPEAN
SECURITY ACT OF 1997, H.R. 1431**

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the European Security Act of 1997, H.R. 1431.

The purpose of this bill is twofold. First, it is designed to carry forward the work we began

2 years ago in the Contract With America advancing two of our top national security priorities: NATO enlargement and ballistic missile defense.

Second, it is intended to show that, contrary to the conventional wisdom, both of these important objectives can be achieved without disrupting relations with Russia.

NATO enlargement is a project near and dear to my heart. This is the fourth bill I have introduced on the subject in as many years, and I am pleased to say that the three previous ones were all enacted into law. I hope that our record of congressional support bodes well for the bill we are introducing today.

I believe that the work we have done in Congress has brought the administration and NATO to where they are today on enlargement. The Atlantic Alliance will begin the first round of enlargement this July. The countries we focused on in last year's NATO enlargement legislation—Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia—are considered the front runners for selection in July.

The bill I am introducing today identifies two problems with the way NATO enlargement is proceeding.

First, we are concerned about the countries that may be left out of the first round of enlargement. We think it is critical that such countries not be left in any security vacuum. These countries must be reassured that they will not be forgotten; that the door to NATO will remain open to them.

Second, we worry that in the rush to mollify Russia, concessions may be made that could jeopardize European security and the integrity and effectiveness of NATO. We are concerned, for example, that new NATO members could be relegated to second-class status. We worry that concessions might be made that could make it impossible for NATO to defend these countries effectively. We must not allow NATO's decision-making structure to be compromised.

To reassure the countries that are not currently front runners for admission, this bill directs the President to designate additional countries to receive NATO enlargement assistance under the NATO Participation Act. Such designation would give them the same status under United States law as Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia. The bill gives the President 180 days in which to do this.

The bill goes on to express the sense of Congress that Romania, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania would make good NATO members and should be invited to join as soon as they satisfy all relevant criteria.

Regarding Russia, the bill spells out concessions that we would consider unacceptable. But then it goes on to recognize that, in principle, we should go about enlarging NATO in a manner sensitive to Russia's interests. Accordingly, we approve in concept such undertakings as the NATO-Russia Charter and adaptation of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe [CFE] Treaty.

To make clear that the purpose of NATO enlargement is not to emasculate Russia—as many in Moscow appear to believe—this bill provides the President the legal authority he has requested to implement the so-called CFE Flank Agreement.

We do this because we know of no better way to demonstrate to Russia that our objec-

tive is not renewed military confrontation between our countries, but friendship. We genuinely believe that NATO enlargement will enhance the security of all countries in Europe, including Russia.

With regard to ballistic missile defense, we also try to demonstrate that our objectives can be achieved in a manner that enhances Russia's security as much as our own. To this end, the bill authorizes a program of ballistic missile defense cooperation with Russia to be carried out by the Department of Defense. This program is authorized to include United States-Russian cooperation regarding early warning of ballistic missile launches from such rogue states as Iran and North Korea, and cooperative research, development, testing, and production of technology and systems for ballistic missile defense.

In addition, the bill includes provisions designed to protect the constitutional prerogative of Congress to approve arms control agreements with Russia bearing on ballistic missile defense.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and the administration toward the prompt enactment of this measure.

**KILDEE HONORS JUDGE KENNETH
SIEGEL**

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime friend, and lifelong community leader, Judge Kenneth Siegel. On Saturday, April 26, 1997 the Greater Flint Branch of the American Civil Liberties Union will honor Judge Siegel as the "Baltus Civil Libertarian of the Year."

Kenneth Siegel has spent his entire life working on behalf of people who are the most vulnerable in our society. He has spoken out for children and young people, he has helped protect senior citizens, and he made sure that low-income people had equal access and representation in the judicial system.

Kenny Siegel has also consistently defended students rights to protest. When schools try to enforce policies despite student opposition, Kenny Siegel has upheld the student's first amendment rights. It is Ken's deep love and understanding of our country's Constitution that led him to defend the rights of those who are easily forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Siegel has always tried to ensure that justice was fair for all Americans. That is why every person who appeared before him was treated with dignity and respect. But I believe what always made Kenny such a special judge and person was the time he spent in the community, visiting the churches, meeting with people of all economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring my dear friend Judge Kenneth M. Siegel. He has made my hometown of Flint, MI, a better place to live, and he has made me, a better person.

THE 1997 J.C. PENNEY GOLDEN
RULE AWARD

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the outstanding philanthropic efforts of the 17 semifinalists for the 1997 J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award. I am proud to represent these people and organizations in Congress, for their commitment and devotion to the central Ohio community is truly exemplary.

The Golden Rule Award ceremony publicly honors local volunteer efforts, and is presented in more than 200 markets in 45 States. The 1997 semifinalists have proven themselves to be amply deserving of this recognition, having demonstrated continued, selfless sacrifice to the Columbus, OH, area. They serve as a model to us all.

America's generosity both at home and abroad is unsurpassed on this planet. Regrettably, however, the day-to-day volunteer efforts of so many Americans go regularly unnoticed. We take for granted their generous work with the poor, the elderly, the sick, and the neglected. But their unheralded and noble deeds are duly noted by those they help, often providing a bit of hope during times of great distress.

At a time when our Nation demands that government become smaller and spend less, the importance of volunteerism and community service grows profoundly. These semifinalists prove once again that the most important work done in our country is not done within the beltway, but within the shelters, pantries, and soup kitchens of our local communities. We must never lose sight of the fact that Americans' innate sense of sacrifice continues regardless of what may transpire in Washington.

I proudly salute the following people and organizations for their inspiring work, and join with my colleagues in congratulating them for this most deserving recognition.

Ms. Carla L. Bailey; Columbus Firefighters' Local Union No. 67; The Dublin Women's Club; Upper Arlington City School District, Habitat for Humanity; Hospice at Riverside and Grant—Grant Inpatient Volunteers; Lee Ann Igoe; Louverture Jones, Jr.; Al and Betty Justus—Central Ohio Radio Reading Service; Linda Stern Kass—Columbus Montessori Education Center; The Liebert Corp.; Sam Morris; Physicians Free Clinic; Darrell Wayne Scott; Kathleen Straub; Helene F. Thomas; Thompson, Hine & Flory LLP; and Claire L. Waters.

HONORING THE BEST OF RESTON
AWARD WINNERS FOR 1997

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to the individuals and businesses who are this year's winners of the Best of Reston Awards. These awards are made annually by the Reston Chamber of Commerce and Reston Interfaith. The Best of Reston Community Service

Award was created to recognize companies, organizations, and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to community service, and/or who have improved the lives of people in need in Reston, VA.

Blooms Flowershop for continuous and generous support to the community including sponsoring the Random Act of Kindness Day where thousands of roses were distributed throughout the community. Blooms also provides arrangements to the elderly and to non-profit groups for events. Owners Karen Weinberg and Gail Dobberfuhl will receive the award on behalf of the business.

Lawrence Cohn owner of Lakeside Pharmacy, who for 25 years, has reached out to those in need. Typical of an old-fashioned pharmacy, Cohn provides a friendly ear, advice and encouragement to his customers. Rising above the call of duty, Cohn has administered eye drops to those unable to do so for themselves, delivered medicine, supplied groceries at the pharmacy, provided jobs for teenagers, and given prescriptions to those at the Embury Rucker Shelter.

Grant Hill of the Detroit Pistons basketball team. Hill is a role model to young Restonians on and off the court. He is involved in several projects benefiting others. These projects include the Medical Care for Children Partnership, the Grant Hill Basketball Tournament and the Grant Hill chocolate bars. The basketball tournament benefits children's hospitals nationally while the chocolate bars benefit the Technology 2000 program at South Lakes High School.

INOVA Health System is named for its diversity of programs involving the community including the mall walkers, Sneakers and Speakers program, community health screenings, partnership with Reston Interfaith, Life with Cancer program, and support of the Special Olympics. More than 200 INOVA employees have volunteered their time for programs including Christmas in April, Volunteerfest, Safe Kids coalition, food drives, Fairfax Fair, the International Children's Festival, the Reston Festival, and the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival sponsored by GRACE. INOVA's president is Knox Singleton.

Carolyn Lavallee a chemistry teacher at South Lakes, was chosen for her commitment to education and public service. Her involvement covers a range of activities from leading Girl Scouts, advising youth, and coordinating the Wetlands project in conjunction with Reston Association.

The Samway Family for their commitment to cancer research. The family created the Kathryn Fox Samway Outback Steakhouse Memorial Golf Tournament which, in the past 4 years, has raised close to \$1 million donated to Fairfax Hospital, National Cancer Institute, and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Thomas Wilkins for being a man if all seasons having served as an active member of the NAACP, the President of the Reston Association (RA), active in Meals-on-Wheels, offering services as a tutor in public schools, served on the Stonegate Advisory Board, assisted children attend college and served as a founding board member for the Medical Care for Children Partnership. Tom also has served as a member of my staff when I was chairman of the County Board of Supervisors.

Constance L. Pettinger is awarded the Distinguished Community Service Award for 15 years at Reston Interfaith. Her work in helping

the homeless, the hungry, and the needy has been an inspiration to all of us who know her.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring the Best of Reston Award winners for all of their hard work in making Reston, VA, an outstanding place to live and work. Their daily heroics deserve recognition and gratitude from a grateful community.

THE FEDERAL REGULATORY
BURDEN

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to discuss the burden that Federal regulations place on the American economy, especially our small businesses. While we are all familiar with this problem, and commend the steps taken during the 104th Congress to make improvements, we are a long way from providing our Nation's small business owners with the relief they need from overregulation.

We all know that the regulatory burden that the Federal Government places on the economy is huge. Exactly how huge is difficult to say. One of the most recent studies that we have available to us is a November, 1995 report to the U.S. Small Business Administration by Thomas Hopkins of the Rochester Institute of Technology. Dr. Hopkins found that the total cost of complying with the regulatory burden is now approaching a figure as high as \$700 billion per year.

I find this figure to be troubling, particularly because regulatory compliance costs disproportionately impact small businesses, those that financially are least able to meet Federal regulatory requirements. Consider the following statistics: in 1992, the average small firm with fewer than 20 employees paid roughly \$5,500 per employee to comply with Federal regulations. By contrast, firms with more than 500 or more employees spent on average a much smaller \$3,000 per employee. This is a large gap that most small businesses have a difficult time bridging. While these are only statistics, they are representative of the very real impact that regulations have on our Nation's small business.

To make matters worse, Federal regulation of small businesses often lacks a sound scientific foundation, or put more simply, just doesn't make sense. Let me give you an example. I recently received a letter from a constituent of mine who operates a small biotechnology company in New York. He took great care to make his laboratories as safe as possible for both himself and his colleagues, and made every effort to comply with all existing regulations. One particular safety feature that he included in his laboratories were eye-wash stations that included eye-wash bottles. These are squeezable plastic bottles that contain a buffer solution to neutralize either acid or base should it inadvertently get into someone's eyes. These bottles are also portable so that they could quickly be brought to an incapacitated victim should an accident occur.

One day, his laboratory was inspected by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA], which fined him for not having eyewash fountains in the laboratory. Now an eyewash fountain is a fixed piece of plumbing

attached to a sink. In order to use it, the employee must be able to stand on two feet and bend over to the sink. It cannot be moved, and cannot be brought to an immobilized, prone victim. I think that most people would agree that this type of fountain is far less useful than a portable eyewash bottle with a buffer solution. However, OSHA felt otherwise. They seem to believe that strict adherence to some arcane regulation, regardless of its cost or practicality, is more important than the goal of protecting people's eyes, something that my constituent was obviously trying to do.

This is just one of countless examples that I could cite that represent the absurdity of our regulatory system. I chair the Regulatory Reform and Paperwork Reduction Subcommittee of the House Small Business Committee. Last week, we held a joint hearing that looked at the use of sound science in Federal agency rulemaking. We heard testimony from distinguished scholars who indicated that Federal agencies often initiate the development of new regulations without a solid foundation of scientific evidence to support their decisions. When this occurs, the small business owners of America are left holding the bag.

The next logical question is: What can be done about this? To its credit, Congress has already done something. Last year, the Congress passed the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, better known as SBREFA. This was truly landmark legislation that should help improve the regulatory process. Contained within this legislation is an often overlooked authority that allows Congress to disapprove new regulations before they take effect. This process, commonly referred to as the Congressional Review Act, gives the legislative branch a direct role in the regulatory formation process. While on its own it may not mean foolish regulations like the one my constituent has to deal with will no longer exist. However, it does mean that Congress can at least attempt to prevent new regulations of questionable substance from taking effect in the future.

The problem, however, is that Congress has not exercised its new authority under the Congressional Review Act. Since this authority became effective on March 29, 1996, roughly 3,600 new regulations have gone into effect, including 61 major rules. However, only a handful of resolutions of disapproval have been introduced, and the House of Representatives has yet to even consider one such resolution.

Why has Congress been so reluctant to use this authority? It is my opinion that Congress has been slow to take advantage of the Congressional Review Act because it lacks accurate and reliable data with which it can challenge the information of the promulgating agency. In many cases, new rules are highly complex and technical in nature. Members have neither the time nor the expertise to assess the information that the agency is using to base its regulatory decisions upon. Until Congress has access to reliable nonpartisan information, it is my belief that the Congressional Review Act will remain a paper tiger, with no real effect on improving the quality and number of regulations that are implemented.

To help in this process, I am developing legislation that should provide Members of Congress with timely and useful information with which they can assess the actions taken by

the promulgating agency. All too often a regulatory agency either ignores or half-heartedly meets the regulatory analyses that it is mandated by statute to conduct. This must stop. With accurate and reliable information, Members will have a credible, factual basis on which to judge whether a specific regulation is needed or is consistent with congressional intent.

We all agree and support having a clean environment and safe workplaces, and I want to be clear that I fully support the need for strong safeguards for our environment and the American worker. However, we must ensure that the ways in which we achieve these goals are based on sound science and take into account the legitimate concerns of the small businesses that will be regulated. It is my sincere hope that Congress can in fact become more active under the Congressional Review Act, and put an end to some of the irrational regulations that Federal agencies continue to develop.

TRIBUTE TO REV. MILTON BRUNSON

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to comment on the life and legacy of a great musician, tremendous clergyman, dedicated community leader, and a wonderful American, the late Reverend Milton Brunson, who passed away on Tuesday, April 1, 1997. I share the words of his wife Joanne that "Reverend Brunson touched so many people's lives its hard to imagine".

On April 25, 1997, Reverend Brunson would have celebrated the 49th anniversary of the Thompson Community Singers, which he helped to found in 1948. At the age of 18, while a senior at McKinley High School and director of the Gospel Chorus at St. Stephens A.M.E. Church, Reverend Brunson teamed up with Dorothy Mercer Chandler to found the Thompson Community Singers. Ms. Chandler, a gifted organist in her own right, worked closely with Reverend Brunson to keep the group together for 49 years, performing across the United States and throughout the world. The Thompson Singers performed at the Chicago Gospel Festival, the Apollo Theater, Madison Square Garden in New York, and on stages in England, Italy, and other foreign countries.

On several occasions, the Thompson Singers produced the No. 1 religious recording, and, in fact, won a Grammy Award. Under the leadership of Reverend Brunson, nearly 1,000 individuals were members of the Thompson Singers; also known as the Tommies. Jesse Dixon Mays, Ricky Dillard, Deloris Stamps, Ethel Holloway, and Angela Spivey, were just a few of the famous vocalists who performed with the Tommies.

In 1992, the Thompson Community Singers, directed by Tyrone Black received the Stellar Awards for Choir of the Year, Song of the Year for "My Mind's Made Up", and writer of the year, Darius Brooks. In 1995, Reverend Brunson and the Tommies won a Grammy Award for the recording "Through God's Eyes."

After several years of singing and choir directing, Reverend Brunson accepted a call to the ministry and built up the Christ Tabernacle Baptist Church located at 854 North Central Street in Chicago, IL. Under the direction of Reverend Brunson, Christ Tabernacle went from its humble beginnings to a major religious institution, with over 2,000 actively participating members.

Rev. Milton Brunson will always be remembered as a legend and a legacy. We thank him for his contributions and we wish the best for his wife Jo Ann, daughters, Donna Louise, Sanita Monique, son Kevin, and sisters, brother, and grandchildren. A talented individual, a dedicated and inspiring leader, a wise teacher, and a great American was the Reverend Milton Brunson.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TONY ZALE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable man, Mr. Tony Zale. Tony passed away on March 20, 1997, in Portage, IN, at the age of 83. He was a man well known for his accomplishments as a champion boxer, contributions to his community, and devotion to his friends and family.

Tony was a champion boxer, fittingly remembered as "the Man of Steel" for both his steel-like ability to withstand and deliver powerful blows in the boxing ring, and his association with a city priding itself on its massive steel production. A native of Gary, IN, Tony began his successful boxing career in 1934 upon leaving his job as a steelworker at age 21. After experiencing a string of losses early in his career, Tony Zale first displayed his extraordinary desire to achieve when he returned to steel work at U.S. Steel in 1935. Willingly accepting the most physically challenging jobs in the mill, Tony returned to boxing in 1937 with a renewed confidence and a physique so muscular it was renowned to be "metallic." Shortly thereafter, Mr. Zale's ambition of becoming a champion boxer was fulfilled when he defeated the National Boxing Association champion in July 1940. In 1941, Tony earned universal recognition as a world titleholder as he defeated World Middleweight Champion, Georgie Abrams. When returning from his service with the U.S. Navy in 1945, Tony faced his most dangerous challenger, Rocky Graziano, for what would be the first of three brutal matches. Winning the first match, losing the second, and then regaining his title in the third, Tony Zale forever marked his place in history as a champion boxer during the epic Zale-Graziano fights. When Tony retired from boxing in 1948, he left the profession with the accomplishment of fighting and beating every contender in the middleweight division during his championship reign from 1941 through 1948. During the 1950's Tony Zale was inducted into the World Boxing Hall of Fame.

Tony put forth the same effort and dedication bettering the community in which he lived as he did during his boxing career. After retiring from boxing, Tony coached at the Chicago Park District youth boxing program, where he taught children the fundamentals of boxing, as

well as the fundamentals of living a good, clean life. Tony was a man devoted to teaching children the importance of education, and a coach remembered for his willingness to offer guidance both inside and outside of the ring. Other community service initiatives in which he participated include serving as a Catholic Youth Organization boxing coach, promoting youth boxing tournaments, and visiting with polio patients. Tony Zale was honored for his efforts in October 1990, when President George Bush presented him with the Presidential Citizen's Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Tony Zale. His children, Mary Medeiros and Theresa Gassis, grandchildren, and nieces and nephews, can all be proud of his professional accomplishments, as well as his commitment to improving the quality of life for the residents of Indiana's First Congressional District. Tony Zale will always be remembered as a true leader and will remain a role model for generations to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CAMP PENDLETON

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize Gen. Claude Reinke and the men and women of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in my district in Oceanside, CA, for their dedicated effort towards environmental conservation.

I have admired General Reinke and his leadership ability and enjoyed the close working relationship we have shared for many years.

Today, Camp Pendleton is being honored by the Department of Defense as the 1996 Environmental Security Award winner in the natural resources conservation category. This award recognizes Camp Pendleton for its "outstanding accomplishments in the conservation of natural resources * * * and ensuring their continued availability for future generations.

Camp Pendleton, the largest military facility land wise was praised for the advancement in the ecosystem management of the 119,000 acres that encompasses the base. Among other aspects, Camp Pendleton's officials were especially noted for an enhancement program of two near extinct species present on the base.

It is my pleasure to also recognize Susan Gibson, an environmental program manager at Camp Pendleton, who is being individually recognized for her role in initiating "significant progress in avoiding and controlling air, water, land and noise pollution."

Mr. Speaker, as one of only six installations to ever win this award twice, I believe Camp Pendleton's men and women are to be commended for their effort and hard work toward environmental safety concerns and congratulated for winning this award.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA L. CROUSHORE, ED.D., CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MON VALLEY EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

HON. MIKE DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Linda Croushore and to recognize her years of outstanding leadership at the Mon Valley Education Consortium. Dr. Croushore's vision of public education has been the source of positive change for the students and communities of the Mon Valley.

Under the direction of Dr. Croushore, the Mon Valley Education Consortium has more than lived up to its name by launching innovative projects that engage our children in the learning process while building partnerships among the 20 school districts they serve and the surrounding region. Clearly, Dr. Croushore's belief that every community has the capacity to respond through collaborative action has been proven to be true as evidenced through the countless number of success stories the consortium has helped to write over the past 10 years.

Since its inception in 1987, the Mon Valley Education Consortium has grown considerably, but its core commitment to providing every child with a quality education through the leadership, and support of many, has steadfastly remained. While not always an easy task, creating consensus from within has been a hallmark of Dr. Croushore's guidance. More than words can convey, Dr. Croushore's actions illustrate that improving our public schools is not an option, but a necessity.

I am pleased to consider Linda a friend, and know that I am not alone in having an enormous amount of respect for her. Congratulations and thank you for your significant achievements on behalf of quality public education, and most of all for your indefatigable spirit.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A PERMANENT EXTENSION OF THE TRANSITION RULE FOR CERTAIN PUBLICLY TRADED PARTNERSHIPS

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am joined by my colleagues, including Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. CRANE, Mrs. KENNELLY, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. HERGER, in introducing legislation to permanently extend the 10-year grandfather for publicly traded partnerships [PTP's]. This legislation applies to those PTP's that were in existence at the time the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 was passed.

Publicly traded partnerships were first created in the early 1980's for the purpose of combining the traditional limited partnership form with the ability to still have the partnership units freely traded on an established securities market or are readily tradable on a secondary market.

Section 7704, which was enacted as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987, provides that certain publicly traded partnerships shall be taxed as corporations. However, the 1987 act completely exempted certain types of PTP's from the reach of section 7704. To be an exempt PTP, 90 percent or more of the partnerships gross income must be qualifying income. In other words, income derived from resources such as timber, oil and gas, minerals and real estate. Further, an exempt PTP need not have been in existence in 1987 when section 7704 was enacted. In addition, other PTP's in existence when section 7704 was enacted were grandfathered, but only for 10 years, through 1997. Our bill would extend this grandfather provision permanently.

I can foresee that some people might view this proposal as special interest legislation. I strongly disagree. Had we chosen in 1987 to provide a permanent grandfather for existing PTP's, no one would have batted an eye. Instead, a permanent grandfather in 1987 would have been an appropriate decision for Congress to make based on the extent to which PTP's relied on the law that was in effect when they were created. The fact that the decision was initially made in 1987 should not stop us from revisiting the issue so long as the original decision has not yet taken effect.

We in Congress are called on to make decisions about appropriate transition relief in virtually every tax bill. Indeed, these types of decisions are ones that are particularly suited for the Members of Congress to make, since they generally involve the balancing of competing interests rather than technicalities of tax law.

Our proposal is different only because it is separate in time from the 1987 act. On the other hand, the proposal is generic in scope, applying to any PTP fitting the criteria. We believe that it is fair, before the 10-year grandfather expires, to determine whether the previous decision was proper or whether a permanent rule is a better choice.

Generally, Congress does not place time limits on grandfather provisions, other than what might be called project-specific provisions. The reasoning behind this policy is that if taxpayers were justified in relying on the law in effect at the time the taxpayer took action, then the taxpayers deserve relief from the change in the law, not just for a limited period but as long as the taxpayer's circumstances do not change.

REASONS FOR A PERMANENT GRANDFATHER

Some may wonder why these PTP's should be permanently grandfathered. After all, if they were taking advantage of so large a loophole that Congress had to shut it down, why should they benefit merely because they got in under the wire?

The truth is that these PTP's did not take advantage of an egregious loophole. PTP's are structured no differently from other types of limited partnerships. They merely combined that basic limited partnership structure with the ability for the units to be readily traded. The problem was thus not a loophole in the Tax Code that needed to be closed retroactively.

These PTP's relied on the law in effect before passage of the 1987 act, and that reliance was completely reasonable. The first proposal directed toward PTP's surfaced in 1984, but President Reagan chose not to forward it to Congress in his tax reform recommendations and we did not independently

take up the idea in 1986. It was only when Treasury proposed section 7704 in mid-1987 as part of a list of acceptable revenue raisers that the proposal received any official endorsement. By that time, most of the affected PTP's were already in existence.

This raises what I believe is the most important issue in this debate: fairness to the PTP's and, more important, their owners. The process of converting from a corporation to a PTP is a costly and time-consuming one, easily taking over 1 year. The conversion process involved consultation with investment bankers, appraisals, planning by corporate finance, securities and tax lawyers, multiple filings with the SEC and State securities agencies, proxy statements and shareholder votes, etc. This process would not have been started or completed had there been any reasonable prospect that a change in the tax law would have applied retroactively or after a limited period of time.

To make matters worse, many of these same costs will be incurred once again if the 10-year grandfather is not made permanent. Grandfathered PTP's will be forced to convert to corporate form on January 1998. To do so, however, will require lengthy planning, and the same investment banking advice, appraisals, and attorney fees. The need for extensive, advance planning makes it essential that the matter be resolved this year.

More important, is the effect that loss of the grandfather will have on PTP investors. It is a virtual certainty that the value of PTP units will be affected adversely if the grandfather expires. Thus, the investor will suffer the most. Who are these investors? Most are average, middle-class taxpayers who have invested in PTP units because of their high yield, many before the 1987 act was passed.

We do not achieve any tax policy goal by honoring the 10-year grandfather. That goal was fully achieved by making section 7704 apply prospectively. Instead, all we would accomplish by retaining the 10-year grandfather would be harm to these PTP's and their investors. There is no doubt what our decision should be.

In conclusion, I want to note the diversity of the PTP's that would benefit from permanent extension of the grandfather. The PTP's affected are involved in a wide variety of industries, from motels and restaurants to chemicals, financial advising and macadamia nuts. Undoubtedly, these businesses operate in many of our districts. Of course, our districts are the homes to the individual investors in these PTP's. The most recent court indicates that there are well over 300,000 individual investors.

The 10-year grandfather hangs like a sword of Damocles over each one of these PTP's. We in Congress have the ability to remove that sword and there is no reason why we should not do so. We urge our colleagues to join with us to support this bill.

THE KINSHIP CARE ACT OF 1997

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill to encourage kinship care families,

families in which adult relatives are the preferred placement options for children separated from their parents.

Last year I introduced similar legislation, and I am pleased to report that a portion of it was incorporated as part of welfare reform—States must now consider relatives who are willing and able to care for minor children before placing them in other foster care situations.

The legislation I am introducing today would go one step further by giving States the flexibility to create a new type of foster care—kinship care—as a demonstration project. It would authorize States to examine and test how their child protection system could incorporate safe, cost-effective kinship care placements. States would have increased flexibility to waive portions of the IV-E foster care program in order to provide services and payments to kinship-care placements. It would help families to rely on their own family members as resources when a child is legally separated from his or her parents.

We clearly need this legislation. From 1985 to 1990, the number of children in foster care increased by 47 percent, while the number of foster families decreased by 27 percent. Furthermore, when a child must be removed from his or her parents, placing the child with a caring relative helps keep the family together and limits disruption to the child's life. Ironically, relatives who want to care for the child often find themselves burdened with legal and bureaucratic paperwork and regulation, and they lack the support services available to regular foster care families.

By giving States the flexibility to create a new type of foster care—kinship care—support services and payments could be made to kinship care placements. States would transfer custody of the child to the adult relative and then would have the flexibility to make some payments and provide services to these children under the IV-E program. Kinship care could be considered a long-term placement option for the States.

In order to be considered an eligible family for kinship care placements under this bill, certain criteria must be met. The child must be removed from the home as a result of a judicial determination that continuation in the home would be contrary to the welfare of the child, the child would otherwise be placed in foster care, and that there are adult relatives willing to provide safe and appropriate care for the child.

This legislation is revenue neutral because States would incorporate kinship care into their child welfare system. States would evaluate their kinship care system for outcomes for children and families, safety of the children, and cost savings. At the end of 4 years, the Secretary of Health and Human Services would evaluate the State kinship care demonstrations and recommend legislative changes based on their evaluations.

This legislation would also require States to provide relative caregivers with notice of, and an opportunity to be heard in, any dispositional hearing or administrative review held when considering the health and safety of a related child.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard from grandparents who desperately want to provide their grandchildren a loving, supportive, and safe home. Because of burdensome regulations, these children end up in the expensive foster

care system. Grandparent groups around the country support this legislation, I met with many of them today. I strongly urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and urge its swift passage.

HONORING PASTOR RODERICK MITCHELL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Roderick Mitchell, one of my constituents who has had an invaluable role in the lives of many families in the Mississippi Delta.

Pastor Mitchell grew up in a troubled household and was forced to spend much of his childhood protecting his mother and younger siblings from his abusive father. He never forgot those mornings he passed crouching, hiding miserably in the cotton fields surrounding his home.

Pastor Mitchell now divides his time between his ministry in Cleveland, MS and his many initiatives to speak out against spousal violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. In 1995 he established a desperately needed rape crises program in his church that has evolved into a community-based organization, the Exodus Center for Life, which provides services to all victims of crime. Pastor Mitchell is perhaps best known for his educational programs that use puppets to teach children in Headstart programs about child abuse and also give information about date rape and domestic violence to youths in school. He has implemented a violence prevention program for teenagers called Preparing our Sons for Manhood, and he also serves as a counselor in Men Against Spousal Harm [MASH], a treatment program for batterers in the Mississippi Delta.

One of Pastor Mitchell's colleagues summed up his efforts recently, saying, "his experience as a victim of domestic violence and his deep belief in the power of education transcend cultural and denominational barriers, reaching all crime victims, young and old, as well as at-risk youth with inspirational messages that help to heal and prevent crime."

Mr. Speaker, Mississippi and this Nation owe a debt of gratitude to Pastor Mitchell. If we are ever to transcend the cycle of violence, hatred, and anger that plagues America, we will need to follow this shining example of selfless determination. I honor Pastor Mitchell, and I thank him for his work.

TRIBUTE TO THE CENTENNIAL OF ALLENHURST, NJ

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on April 26, 1997, the Borough of Allenhurst, NJ, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of their community. A reenactment of the first meeting of the board of commissioners will take place at the Allenhurst Beach Club on

Saturday at 3 p.m. The celebration of the borough's centennial will continue with a variety of community events throughout the rest of the year.

Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago, in April 1897, the Borough of Allenhurst had the first meeting of its board of commissioners. Of course, this was not the beginning of the history of life in the area as we now call Allenhurst. A Scotsman named Gawen Drummond bought the land for native Americans. The land was for many years part of the Allen Farm, and there were two hotels, the Allen Hotel and the Crow's Nest. In 1896 the Coast Land Office was built at the corner of Page and Corlies Avenues, and in the next 20 months 58 cottages were constructed. The Coast Land Company placed ads in New York and Philadelphia newspapers extolling the borough's wise exclusiveness. The following year, the borough was incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, a lot has changed in Allenhurst, NJ, and America since the founding of Allenhurst. One hundred years ago, Grover Cleveland was President, San Francisco had a massive earthquake, the Spanish-American War was being fought, the first World Series was held and construction of the Panama Canal began. But much has remained the same: The beauty of the ocean and beaches of the Jersey Shore and the deep sense of community pride felt by the residents of Allenhurst.

On April 26 at 3 p.m., the minutes of the original meeting will be read. Mayor Coyne and Commissioners Ruocco and McCarthy will be dressed in 1896-style costumes. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the borough officials and all the residents of this beautiful oceanfront community on this historic occasion and look forward to working with them to make the next 100 years every bit as good as the first century.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as we approach a new millennium we cannot forget the launching of the April 24, 1915 pogrom of some 200 Armenian religious, political and intellectual leaders from Constantinople [Istanbul]. For 8 years, 1.5 million Armenians suffered grave repudiation by the government of the "Young Turk Committee." This unfortunate history must be memorialized and remembered such that the world can understand that this tragedy represents the first example of genocide in the 20th century. This observation is not made lightly; but the facts about the destruction of the Armenian people cannot be ignored.

As Armenians and people of conscience throughout the world commemorate April 24, we must accurately depict history to ensure that it is never repeated. Continuing to deny the truth about an important part of world history creates the view that it was just an "unfortunate incident" and nothing else. This inaccuracy can be nothing further from the truth and allows for similar atrocities to occur.

Mr. Chairman, on this day I urge all of my colleagues to remember the horrible events

that occurred in the early part of this century. May they never be repeated again.

LEE HIGH SCHOOL'S SINGING LANCERS TOP THE CHARTS IN ATLANTA COMPETITION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, the spotlight at the April Fiesta-Val Music competition held in Atlanta, GA was focused on the Choirs of Lee High School.

The performance given by the 20-member Madrigal Choir earned them a superior rating by the judges, placing Lee first in their division. Achieving a superior rating over their 15 competitors, the Fiesta-Val Champion Trophy was presented to Lee Madrigals for reaching the highest numerical score of any choir in their division.

The next group to be called into the winners' spotlight was Lee's Ladies' Chamber Choir. The chamber choir gave another outstanding performance before the panel of judges who rated this choir superior. The Concert Choir was the next to be honored with an excellent rating for their performance.

Noteworthy is the selection of Lee's Singing Lancers as the Fiesta-Val's recipient of the 1997 Grand Champion trophy. To receive this distinctive recognition as overall champions, the Singing Lancers marked the highest combined scores of all choirs competing in the festival.

The awards cited above have become a tradition for Lee's choral program through the hard work and dedication of its director, Mr. Lindsey Florence. Were it not for this outstanding director, the students may never have reached this plateau in their high school music experience. This remarkable contribution was recognized when the festival sponsors presented Mr. Lindsey Florence with the coveted Award of Distinction in recognition of his notable contribution to musical excellence.

Congratulations to the director, Mr. Florence, and his wonderful students: Shely Abbott, Matt Aberant, Denise Absher, Karen Albers, Jessica Alonzo, Alex Arndt, Mary Assad, Nicki Baugher, Ashley Bush, Nicki Clark, Amy Cole, Cindy Craig, Elizabeth Crego, Rachel Cully, Abigail Dosch, Kelly Drier, Mary Fitzgerald, Heather Flemming, John Goff, Craig Goheen, Brian Gresham, Rachel Griffin, Kristen Hampton, James Hare, Brandon Henrich, April Holloman, J.P. Javier Wong, Erlend Johnson, Kim Johnson, Mary Kim, Peter Laver, Mike Lazear, Corrine Leahey, Darcie Lee, Dan Lee, Ruth Leeds, Chrisina Lewis, Anna Lipari, Courtney Mallon, Tara McCabe, Caroline McClaugherty, Heather McDonald, Darin McMillion, Dave McMullin, Abby Meyer, Jamie Michaud, Michelle Montvai, Carrie Moore, Shawn Newman, Ty Oxley, Vanessa Pannell, Alicia Peretti, Corey Perrine, Jessica Piansky, Sara Poh, Alicia Powell, Anna Ramdeo, David Reynolds, Terri Richards, Miranda Romero, Julie Saholsky, Beth Silvola, Leslie Simpson, Justin Smallwood, Julie Stoops, J.R. Stratton, Damara Thompson, Nhien To, Kristin Unger, Melissa Wilkerson, and Audrey Wright.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, April 23, 1997, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes Nos. 86 and 87. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted "yes" on each of the amendments to H.R. 400 as offered by Mr. CAMPBELL of California.

RETIREMENT OF CAPT. CHARLES CONNOR, U.S. NAVY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, over the past 25 years, Capt. Charles D. Connor has been a leading force in the Navy's public affairs community. His efforts, through a wide variety of assignments, played an integral role in articulating the Navy story, and ensuring public support for our policies and programs.

His early public affairs assignments, including U.S.S. *John F. Kennedy*, Armed Forces Bicentennial Program, Navy Recruiting Region Pacific Northwest, Navy Public Affairs Office Midwest, and Navy Recruiting Command laid the groundwork for stellar performance in the most challenging and influential billets in the PAO community.

In the late 1980's, Captain Connor went on to lead the public affairs efforts of the U.S. Third Fleet, following that success with 3 years at U.S. Space Command. His most recent assignments put him truly at the top of his field, where his broad professional expertise has been of incalculable benefit to the U.S. Navy.

As public affairs director of U.S. Navy European Headquarters, 1992-1994, Captain Connor, created, planned and executed the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion, the centerpiece of which was the globally televised Presidential embarkation aboard Navy ships. This special event successfully underlined the fact that American power projection relies on a forward-based Navy, a vital communication objective which was brilliantly conceived and implemented. His efforts were personally commended by the White House.

As the Deputy Chief of Information, 1994-1995, Captain Connor directed national and international Navy public affairs programs, managing global day-to-day media, community and internal relations operations involving hundreds of people and a multimillion dollar budget. He also created the first standardized manual on the operation of nine regional public affairs offices and introduced digital photography transmission to media, producing significant savings in processing costs.

Captain Connor's outstanding public affairs acumen culminated in his assignment as public affairs officer for the Secretary of the Navy in 1995. During a time of great change and volatility due to downsizing, he spearheaded the Secretary's communications program targeting both internal and external audiences. His efforts resulted in a greater understanding

of and advocacy for the Secretary's initiatives, both within the Navy and externally through the news media.

He is a strategic thinker who is action-oriented. Captain Connor's professional excellence, diligence, and loyalty have made him a great asset to the U.S. Navy. I take this opportunity to wish him well upon his retirement from the Navy and for continued success. He has truly been a role model for public affairs officers who follow him.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine work and outstanding public service of thousands of committed citizens in California's 40th Congressional District. San Bernardino County, the largest county in the continental United States make a difference on October 26, 1996, with an ambitious project entitled, "Community Cleanup: Our Fight Against Blight." For this ambitious undertaking, the San Bernardino Make a Difference Day project was recently chosen as one of the top 10 national winners by USA Weekend Magazine and a panel of celebrity judges. This tremendous effort will be recognized at a luncheon on May 1 recognizing outstanding achievements during national Make a Difference Day.

The San Bernardino Make a Difference project was launched at a time when the local newspaper, the San Bernardino County Sun, ran a series of well-written articles addressing the issue of blight in the local community. The result was a countywide effort undertaken on national Make a Difference Day. The remarkable effort to undertake a community cleanup was spearheaded by the city of San Bernardino and Mayor Tom Minor in a collaborative effort with Norcal/San Bernardino, San Bernardino County, Arrowhead United Way, the Volunteer Center, and the San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce. Twenty-four cities in San Bernardino County embraced the concept with proclamations and letters of support from local mayors. Twenty-two community newspapers and five radio stations promoted the project with public service announcements and press releases. To encourage citizen participation, 16 country landfills were open free of charge to residents on October 26. The result was more than 3.5 thousand tons of trash, including 5,000 tires, deposited at county landfills.

In addition to the many county residents who participated, about 130 volunteers worked on 10 other related projects. Paul Chaney, a private business owner, with the assistance of other volunteers from the Children's Fund and the Volunteer Center, picked up trash along a 2-mile stretch of Little Mountain. Employees of Raintree Insurance Co. and a youth group from the Nazarene Church painted graffiti in various sections of San Bernardino. While a Girl Scout troop cleaned up a local creek and filed a commercial dump truck, members of Los Padrinos cleaned, trimmed, weeded, and hauled away trash for elderly citizens. Thirteen neighborhood association groups in San

Bernardino also picked up trash and painted graffiti in and around their neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, this remarkable effort is 1 of 11 chosen from over one million participants nationwide joining in national Make a Difference Day. The many fine people of San Bernardino County have made a difference, and will continue to make a difference, to improve the quality of life for our citizens. I am extremely proud of this effort and it is only fitting that House of Representatives recognize this achievement today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall votes 86, 87, 88, and 89 on Wednesday, April 23, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM BAKER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has made it his professional mission to serve the State of California and its 32 million people. William Baker, whose career has spanned more than three decades, will be retiring this year as vice president of university and external relations for the University of California system.

Ever since starting work for UC some 33 years ago, Bill has been a steady force, helping to guide the university through its most formative years. Now with nine campuses, five teaching hospitals, and the three national laboratories it manages for the Federal Government, UC's \$10 billion budget is larger than that of many States. Bill has been instrumental in maintaining the university's prominence as one of the top university systems in the country. I speak from personal knowledge, when I say that Bill Baker is an influential voice for education on Capitol Hill.

A fourth-generation Californian and a native of Berkeley, Bill is a 1958 civil engineering graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. It was as an undergraduate that he began his university career as a mail clerk under former UC President Robert Gordon Sproul. Bill went on to become a licensed civil engineer and worked as a State engineer on the restoration of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

Bill returned to university service in 1964 as an associate engineer in UC's systemwide office. In 1974, he was named director for capital improvements planning and budgeting, and was named assistant vice president for budget, analysis, and planning and special assistant to the president on April 1, 1979. He was named vice president for budget and university relations by former President David Gardner on October 1, 1983. Bill assumed his current title in 1993.

Besides his professional pursuits, Bill has found time to give even more back to the peo-

ple of both his State and country. Active in numerous national and State associations supporting higher education, he also participates on a State and national level as a mediator and arbitrator in the construction industry. Bill is a member of the board of directors of the California Council on Science and Technology, which I created with Bill's leadership, and of the American Arbitration Association. He is also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on about Bill Baker. To me, he embodies the very best in public service. Committed and compassionate, Bill has demonstrated every day and in every way that the best way to advance the public good is by doing good for the public. We are fortunate to have been touched by his works. He is a "true blue."

HONORING GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute five outstanding young women from the 18th district of Illinois who will be honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award by Kickapoo Council of Girl Scouts in Peoria on May 4, 1997. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting, symbolizing outstanding achievements in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The award can be earned by girls aged 14-17, or in grades 9-12. The recipients of this award at this time are Angela Hess of Girl Scout Troop No. 301, Renee Hinnen of Girl Scout Troop No. 4, Rebecca Roth of Girl Scout Troop No. 345, Katy Rodgers of Girl Scout Troop No. 257, and Amy Hale of Girl Scout Troop No. 357.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.5 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the Gold Award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches, the career exploration pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and the Senior Girl Scout challenge, as well as design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award project. A plan for fulfilling these requirements is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

In the process of earning their Gold Awards, these Girl Scouts made significant contributions to their community. Angela Hess completed her project by working with a local children's hospital in planning activities for the children and then doing the activities with them. Renee Hinnen planned, organized, and implemented the registration, snack time, and lunch time activities for the Isaac Walton League's "Kids in the Woods" program. Rebecca Roth planned and implemented a sports and games day for the purpose of recruiting others to become Girl Scouts. Katy Rodgers taught dance to underprivileged children who cannot afford lessons, and Amy Hale organized a reference library at her church, and designed study sheets for Sunday school

teachers and youth group leaders. I believe these young women should receive the public recognition due them for their efforts and their service to their communities and country.

IN HONOR OF THE URBAN LEAGUE
OF HUDSON COUNTY, INC.'S 19TH
ANNUAL EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
DAY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable organization, the Urban League of Hudson County, Inc. as it celebrates the 19th anniversary of its Equal Opportunity Day. This annual event, which serves to reaffirm the laudable mission of providing equal opportunity to community members, will be celebrated on April 24, 1997 at the Meadowlands Hilton Hotel in Secaucus.

The Urban League of Hudson County, Inc.'s role as a pre-eminent community institution began over a quarter century ago during a turbulent time in the Nation's history. In 1971, we had just come through a decade when the movement toward civil rights took its toll on the urban leaders of our society: Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers, and Malcolm X. Shabazz, all assassinated in their prime. The mission of this new organization was to continue these leaders' legacy and to help ensure equal opportunity for all members of our American family. Since its inception, the Urban League of Hudson County, Inc. has endeavored to provide positive family images to which others could aspire.

Today, Americans living in urban areas are portrayed too often with violence and in economic distress. The Urban League of Hudson County, Inc., under the direction of current president and CEO Elnora Watson, has made tremendous strides in reversing that stereotype through its various programs, such as AmeriCorps, the Adolescent Servicing Center, Adopt-A-Parent, Beginning Alcohol and Addiction Basic Education Studies, Family Development Program, job placement and retention, mentors for youth, Parent Community Mobilization Initiative, and parenting skills workshops. Graduates of these valuable programs will hopefully go on to become productive residents of Hudson County and become beacons of hope for others in their communities.

This year, the Urban League of Hudson County, Inc. will mark the 19th anniversary of its Equal Opportunity Day Dinner. On this momentous occasion, a number of people will be recognized for working tirelessly to dispel the negative images of urban Americans as portrayed by the media. The award recipients for 1997 include: Catherine Easterling Todd, Nantexter Ferguson Sebron, Betty Warren, Mary L. Setzer, Barbara A. Briggs, Patricia Sebron, Kathleen Washington, Pamela O'Neal, Philip Martin Bonaparte, M.D., Blynette Rogers, Patricia Jackson Robertson, Dale Porter, and Blanche McDuffy Smith. Each of these outstanding individuals has made a unique contribution to enhancing the image of the Urban League of Hudson County, Inc.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this special organization. The Urban League of

Hudson County, Inc. serves as an example of what can be accomplished when people when people work toward a common goal. It is an honor to have them providing services to the residents of my district.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
JOHN T. MYERS

HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the chamber that on Friday, May 9, the Uniontown Locks and Dam, located on the Ohio River between Indiana and Kentucky, will be renamed the John T. Myers Locks and Dam. Uniontown Locks and Dam is just 2 miles south of the confluence of the Wabash River and the mighty Ohio. As John was born and raised along the Wabash in Covington, IN, I can think of no better honor for an individual who dedicated so much of his life to public service, most of that time devoted to watching over our Nation's vast waterways system.

Representative John Meyers served the people of the Seventh Congressional District of Indiana for 30 years before retiring at the end of the 104th Congress. For most of that distinguished career, the citizens of Indiana were fortunate to have him represent them on the House Appropriations Committee. His leadership on the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, in particular, helped ensure that our Nation's waterways, which are so vital to our national economy, remained navigable.

On May 9, John's many friends will converge on the Uniontown Locks and Dam site to officially recognize his contribution to inland navigation by renaming and dedicating this facility in his honor. It is a fitting tribute to a man whose visionary leadership has played such a significant role in the development and maintenance of America's rivers, ports and harbors.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the Armenian genocide.

The atrocities committed against the Armenian people in the late 19th century and the early 20th century ranks among the worst such occurrences in human history. As the 19th century drew to a close, authorities in the crumbling Ottoman Empire decided to crack down against a growing movement for Armenian autonomy. After enduring brutal persecution, the Armenians refused to pay the taxes levied by their oppressors. As a result, thousands of innocent civilians lost their lives and thousands more witnessed the destruction of their homes—all because the Ottoman Government wanted to teach them a lesson.

When the Armenians sought to publicize their plight by seizing a government building in Constantinople, government forces instigated

a vicious pogrom during which over 50,000 perished. Several years later during the First World War, Armenian service in the Allied cause prompted the Turkish authorities to order the deportation of almost the entire Armenian population from their homeland to two distant provinces of the Turkish Empire, Syria and Palestine. Well over one million died during this long forced march, many thousands at the hands of government soldiers and many more from disease and malnutrition.

It is unfortunate that we have not managed to escape the consequences of these atrocities. The legacy of bitterness is readily observable in central Asia, where memories of past injustice have complicated the search for peace and stability in Nagorno-Karabakh.

As the horror continued, thousands of Armenians came to this country. Many of their heirs now live in my own State of California, where they have established an enviable record of prosperity and service to the United States. California is home to the largest Armenian-American population in the United States. The California State Assembly designated April 24, 1997 as "California Day of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915–23, and for the Victims of the Sumgait Pogroms of 1988 and Baku Riots of 1990."

The resolution notes that Armenians in Nagorno Karabagh remain at risk until a peaceful resolution to the Karabagh conflict is reached that guarantees the freedom of security for these people while supporting their right to self-determination.

We join Armenians around the world as we remember the terrible massacres suffered in 1915–23, among one of the worst tragedies to befall a group of people.

Even though this is a day of commemoration for the thousands who perished in the Armenian genocide, we must not forget the great duty of those now living to prepare a better world for generations to come.

INTRODUCTION OF "THE INSULAR
FAIR WAGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS
ACT OF 1997"

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to address the systematic, persistent, and inexcusable exploitation of men and women in sweatshops in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a territory of the United States of America.

Despite criticisms from the Congress and Federal agencies, and despite promises by CNMI leaders of sweeping change of aggressive action against abusive employers, these conditions continue today, confirmed by CNMI observers, human rights and religious organizations, and Federal enforcement and oversight agencies. These workers are not free, and are not given the same opportunities and protections every other worker in the United States or its territories is provided. To these workers, the American dream has become a nightmare.

Consumers in the United States and around the world expect that the label "Made in USA" stands for something. American manufacturers

know that label signifies compliance with basic worker protection laws and human rights guarantees. But in the CNMI, that made in USA label is used to conceal systematic exploitation.

Last week, President Clinton and garment industry leaders announced a U.S. apparel industry partnership dedicated to eliminating sweatshop working conditions around the world. Those efforts must also focus on our own soil, on the CNMI, where conditions that could not be tolerated anywhere elsewhere in America flourish with the blessings of the local government.

In the CNMI, human rights and the basic rights all American workers are supposed to enjoy are routinely brushed aside in the pursuit of an economic miracle. The CNMI Government is currently spending in excess of \$1 million in an unprecedented effort to paint a highly favorable picture of its economy.

But the record indicates this is no economic miracle; it is an economic mirage, built on exploited foreign labor.

Freed from U.S. immigration and minimum wage laws, the CNMI—

Uses its immigration policy to open its borders to a flood of foreign workers—from the Philippines, China, and other Asian countries—that now outnumber the indigenous population.

Maintains a minimum wage of as little as \$2.90 an hour for garment workers—and far less for household workers and farmers—despite promises to bring wages to the Federal level.

Ignores employer restrictions against U.S. laws—such as the right to unionize and to receive all wages earned, instead maintaining a bureaucracy that makes it all but impossible for workers to seek redress.

Fails to prosecute aggressively those who mistreat and abuse foreign labor by forcing them into prostitution and other types of involuntary sexual activity, who restrict their expressions of political beliefs, and who deny them the wages they have earned. In fact, many workers have said that speaking out against battery and rape, against unsanitary living barracks, against illegal wage withholdings, long hours or violations of their work contract, can result in prompt deportation and the forfeiture of their wages.

Congress in recent years, on a bipartisan basis, has called upon the CNMI to end these abuses, but with little effect. In fact, the CNMI Government has passed several laws that actually roll back worker protections, and broke a promise to the U.S. Congress to raise its minimum wage across the board, to the Federal level.

This continuing pattern of abuse and indifference to human exploitation demands a rapid response from the Congress and from the Clinton administration. Today, along with several cosponsors, I am introducing legislation to protect the integrity of the "Made in USA" label by only permitting its use when all applicable labor laws are obeyed.

This legislation will increase the minimum wage in the CNMI in stages until it matches the Federal level.

Lastly, this legislation will also bring the CNMI under the Immigration and Naturalization Service which, unlike the CNMI's Government, has the skills and resources to establish credible and enforceable policies that do not sanction the exploitation of men and women.

HOME EDUCATION WEEK

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to voice my support along with the Missouri State Senate and the Missouri House of Representatives for home education. The Missouri General Assembly has designated the second week of May as Home Education Week. Missouri has been recognized as a leader nationwide in the home education movement. Home Education Week is a good way to acknowledge those parents in Missouri who have helped to establish a strong foundation for quality home education.

Home education has always been unique because it provides the opportunity for children to be taught by their parents or someone the parents trust. Home educators are able to meet the individual needs of their children by designing educational lessons for each child. They also provide children in home education numerous opportunities to learn through hands-on activities, where they are able to apply what they are learning in real-life settings. The one-on-one interpersonal ties that are developed in home education between a parent and their children establish solid mentoring relationships.

I know of many families in the Seventh District of Missouri that I represent who educate their children through more than just their textbooks. They regularly take field trips and conduct science experiments so that they can apply what they are learning. I know one family who has entered award-winning projects in the Ozark Empire Fair in science and drawing competitions as well as winning awards regionally and statewide in speech contests. The Will Purvis family is one of many southwest Missouri families who are making a visible difference in the education their children through home education.

I want to thank each parent who has made the decision to educate their children at home. This decision requires a great amount of dedication. This dedication requires planning and preparation that involves many extra hours and late nights of preparation. Their dedication results pay off in home-educated students that do well when they compete with their peers nationwide in private and public schools and in higher education. We should continue to support their dedication as they continue to make a visible difference.

IN HONOR OF TERTULIAS DE ANTANO AND ITS FOUNDER LIDIA GIL-RAMOS: MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS IN NORTH HUDSON COUNTY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional woman, Ms. Lidia Gil-Ramos and the exceptional organization which she founded, Tertulias de Antano. The contributions of Ms. Lidia Gil-Ramos and

Tertulias de Antano will be celebrated at the group's 23d Anniversary Dinner Dance to be held at Schutzen Park in North Bergen, NJ, on Sunday, April 27, 1997.

Such a well-respected program, Tertulias de Antano, is the result of the unwavering dedication of its founder Lidia Gil-Ramos. Before arriving in Union City, NJ, in 1965, she taught both elementary school and elderly farm workers in her homeland of Cuba. Education was also a personal passion for Ms. Gil-Ramos. She earned her masters degree from the University of Havana. This extraordinary woman then became director of a large nursing home in San Miguel de los Banos, Matanzas in central Cuba.

Upon arriving in America, Ms. Gil-Ramos found employment as an income maintenance specialist for the Food Stamp Program in Jersey City. Her dedicated service to senior citizens began with the Cuban refugee program in her adopted hometown of Union City. There Ms. Gil-Ramos witnessed the difficult process of adjustment experienced by many Cuban seniors in their new environment. Resolved to make a positive difference in the lives of the senior citizens in the community, Ms. Gil-Ramos instituted the Tertulias de Antano recreational program on October 13, 1974.

Ms. Gil-Ramos is the heart and soul of Tertulias de Antano. This invaluable program dispenses information concerning English-language programs, health care issues, and community events to area seniors. Presently, this uniquely beneficial program is applauded by senior citizens from countries throughout Latin America who have found a new home in Hudson County. Ms. Gil-Ramos' vision and commitment to excellence are evident in the pleasure experienced by senior citizens who have benefited from the services of Tertulias de Antano.

It is an honor to have Ms. Lidia Gil-Ramos and Tertulias de Antano as parts of the community in my district. They are shining examples of what can be accomplished when people work together toward a common goal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on the evening of Thursday, April 17, 1997, during rollcall vote No. 85. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES STAMP TODAY HONORING RAOUL WALLENBERG

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today at a extremely moving ceremony at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, a stamp honoring Swedish humanitarian and Holocaust hero Raoul Wallenberg was issued. This is a most appropriate step, and I congratulate the Postal Service for this action. Raoul Wallenberg was

responsible for saving as many as 100,000 lives in Budapest, Hungary, in the closing days of World War II.

It is most appropriate that we honor Raoul Wallenberg with a U.S. stamp. In this age devoid of heroes, Wallenberg is the archetype of a hero—one who risked his life day in and day out, to save the lives of tens of thousands of people he did not know, whose religion he did not share.

Mr. Speaker, I want to salute the men and women of the U.S. Postal Service, and Postmaster Gen. Marvin Runyon, for their help and support in recognizing and honoring the legacy of Raoul Wallenberg. The cooperation and assistance for today's ceremony from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and its staff was invaluable in today's most impressive ceremony.

I want to offer special thanks to a number of individuals who participated in today's ceremony: my colleague, Senator CARL LEVIN; Miles Lehman, chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council; S. David Fineman, Postal Service Governor; and my granddaughter Chelsea Lantos-Swett. I also want to pay tribute to the efforts of Ilene Munetz Pachman, who energetically pursued her dream of a stamp honoring Raoul Wallenberg, and my wife Annette, who has devoted so much of her life to making known the story of Wallenberg and worked tirelessly for the release of Wallenberg from Soviet prison. We were honored at the Holocaust Museum today with the presence of a number of our colleagues from the Congress, as well as a number of representatives of the diplomatic corps.

Born on August 4, 1912, an heir of a prominent Swedish banking family, Raoul Wallenberg studied architecture at the University of Michigan in the 1930's. In 1944, at the urging of the United States Government's War Refugee Board, he was appointed a Swedish special diplomatic envoy to Hungary. Without regard for his own safety, Wallenberg went to Hungary and worked to save tens of thousands of Jews from Nazi death camps, primarily by issuing Swedish protective passports and establishing safe houses under Swedish diplomatic protection where Jews were able to find some protection from Nazi thugs. Wallenberg also is properly credited with saving as many as 70,000 lives when he stopped the bombing of the Jewish ghetto in Budapest by boldly threatening a Nazi general.

What makes Raoul Wallenberg's incredible heroism so tragic is the fate he suffered following his extraordinary exploits in Budapest. He was arrested by Soviet military officials on January 17, 1945, and disappeared into the shadowy, half-world of the Gulag. It is the ultimate irony that this man, who did so much for so many, suffered such a fate. That tragedy is further compounded by the uncertainty surrounding the ultimate fate of Raoul Wallenberg. In 1957, the Soviet Government issued an official statement that Wallenberg had died in 1947 from a heart attack. The Russian Government reaffirmed again in 1991 that he had died in 1947, but they provided no additional details or other confirming evidence.

Mr. Speaker, the stamp that is being issued today features a profile portrait of Wallenberg on the telephone. In the background, a group of Holocaust survivors looks over his shoulder. A Schutzpass, the protective passport document which he issued in an effort to save the lives of Jews destined for extermination

camps, is shown in the upper left corner. Burt Silverman, the designer of the stamp, is an established artist whose work has appeared on the cover of the New Yorker magazine.

In recognition of his heroism, the U.S. Congress has recognized and honored Raoul Wallenberg on a number of occasions in the past, acknowledging the debt of the United States and all humanity to this great man. In 1981 the Congress enacted and President Reagan signed legislation I introduced making Wallenberg an honorary U.S. citizen. Wallenberg was the second individual after Sir Winston Churchill to be recognized by being made an honorary U.S. citizen.

In 1986 in cooperation with our former colleague Bill Lowery of California, we renamed the section of 15th Street, S.W., where the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is now located, as "Raoul Wallenberg Place." In 1994, the Congress approved legislation to place a bust of Raoul Wallenberg on permanent display in the U.S. Capitol.

Whatever Wallenberg's fate, his heroic achievements remain a shining beacon in the darkest moment of human history. This hero of the Holocaust, whose heroism saved tens of thousands of lives, has achieved international recognition, respect, and admiration. People everywhere remember his courageous deeds in Budapest and the incalculable injustice of his incarceration in the Soviet Union. This recognition today—issuing a United States postage stamp in his honor—is only the latest appropriate tribute to this outstanding human being.

My wife Annette and I owe our lives to Raoul Wallenberg, an authentic hero of the Holocaust. In one of the tragic ironies of history, this man who saved tens of thousands disappeared into the Soviet Gulag. His deeds must never be forgotten. The commemorative Wallenberg stamp will help us remember this beacon of hope that shined in history's darkest moment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISASTER RELIEF TAX ACT OF 1997

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Disaster Relief Tax Act of 1997, a bill which will provide important relief to taxpayers affected by a Presidentially declared disaster.

Earlier this year, California experienced the worst flooding in State history. In the Sacramento Valley, levee failures on the Feather River, the Bear River, and the Sutter Bypass caused extensive flooding of over 80,000 acres in residential and agricultural areas. Nine Californians tragically lost their lives in these floods, and some 120,000 others were displaced from their homes. In total, the floods caused more than \$1.6 billion in damage. A full 48 of the State's 56 counties were declared Federal disaster areas, including each of the 10 northern California counties that I represent.

Today, the newspapers are filled with more heart-breaking stories of incredible flooding—this time in North Dakota. We are once again reminded how easily lives and communities can be uprooted by the force of nature.

Unfortunately, for Americans who fall victim to such disasters, the problems they face don't necessarily subside with the waters. Inflexible tax law and undue administrative burdens often cause individuals added grief when dealing with the Internal Revenue Service. In the wake of these recent disasters, it is altogether appropriate that the Federal Government do what it can to help provide relief to these taxpayers.

The Internal Revenue Service, through regulations and other guidance, routinely extends many tax-related deadlines for disaster victims. However, many other deadlines are firmly set by law and the IRS is not permitted to extend them through administrative regulations. My bill will authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to extend these tax deadlines for a period of up to 90 days.

Taxpayer actions covered by this legislation include the filing of tax returns, the payment of taxes, and the filing of petitions with the Tax Court. Additionally, my bill would allow taxpayers to retain eligibility for any credits or refunds during the Secretary's prescribed extension period. All rights associated with this eligibility would also be extended, permitting taxpayers to file appropriate claims for these credits and refunds and to bring suit upon these claims.

Mr. Speaker, this problem of inflexible tax laws was highlighted by a recent IRS news release, dated March 12, 1997. In it, the agency announced that it had extended certain deadlines related to pension plans for taxpayers affected by federally declared disasters. However, it also listed a series of deadlines that the agency could not administratively extend because they are firmly set by law. My bill would grant the IRS the appropriate authority to extend any deadlines faced by taxpayers victimized by such disasters.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation also simplifies the process by which taxpayers establish their disaster losses for tax purposes. Often, as a result of a Presidentially declared disaster, individuals seek Federal loans or Federal loan guarantees to help them rebuild their homes or businesses. To obtain these loans or loan guarantees, taxpayers must have their property damage appraised by the Federal Government. Incredibly, however, these taxpayers may have to obtain an additional appraisal to establish the amount of their losses for tax purposes. I believe that this duplication is an unnecessary burden to impose on taxpayers who have already been victimized by disasters. Taxpayers should be allowed to use appraisals performed or authorized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, or other Government agencies to calculate their disaster losses. My bill explicitly authorizes the IRS to issue regulations or other guidance implementing this change, and I anticipate that this would be done promptly upon enactment.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Internal Revenue Service should have the appropriate authority to do what is fair. The Disaster Relief Tax Act of 1997 does just that. Americans who have already been victimized by floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, or other Presidentially declared disasters should not also be victimized by inflexible tax laws and undue administrative burdens. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important and much-needed legislation.

AFRICAN GROWTH AND
OPPORTUNITY ACT**HON. PHILIP M. CRANE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with so many of my colleagues today in reintroducing legislation intended to open a new era of trade and investment relations between the United States and the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.

For more than three decades, the United States has supported a variety of foreign assistance programs designed to aid the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. Unfortunately, traditional foreign aid alone will not lead to the level of economic development that we would all like to see on the African continent. In the long run, private sector investment and development must serve as the catalyst for Sub-Saharan African countries to compete in the global marketplace, to become self-reliant, and to raise the standard of living for their people. At present, however, there is no initiative underway to engage the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa as business partners through trade and investment.

I believe that we have an opportunity in the 105th Congress to fill this major gap in U.S. trade policy and in our relations with the region, which consists of a diverse set of 48 countries, many of which have undergone significant political and economic change in recent years. At this time, more than 30 Sub-Saharan African countries have taken steps, under the guidance of bilateral and multilateral donors such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to create the necessary environment to attract private sector investment. In addition, more than 25 nations in the region have held democratic elections since 1990.

Given the changes that are taking place in Sub-Saharan Africa, I believe that it is appropriate for us to shift our policy toward the region. In particular, we must reach out to the Sub-Saharan African countries which have instituted programs to put their economies on the right track; we want them to succeed in charting a new course for their future. I also must note the reforms underway in Sub-Saharan Africa present many new trade and investment opportunities for United States exporters and workers, particularly in the area of infrastructure development. The legislation I am introducing today is designed to bring our private sectors together by providing the necessary framework to open a mutually beneficial trade and investment dialogue between the United States and Sub-Saharan African countries.

The legislation being reintroduced today, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, calls for the negotiation of free-trade agreements with countries or regions in Sub-Saharan Africa that are taking appropriate steps to reform their economies. To help give momentum to these negotiations, and to focus greater attention on Sub-Saharan Africa by the United States private sector, the bill calls for the creation of a United States-Sub-Saharan Africa trade and economic cooperation forum. This forum will provide regular opportunities for policy leaders and heads of state to meet to discuss issues of mutual interest and to keep the trade negotiations on track.

In addition, the bill would extend the generalized system of preferences [GSP] program, which provides duty-free access to the United States market to imports of eligible items from developing countries, permanently for Sub-Saharan Africa. It also would allow the President to designate countries in the region as eligible for additional GSP benefits on products currently excluded from coverage by the program. Recognizing that textile and apparel products development could result in immediate job creation in Sub-Saharan Africa that would not threaten existing jobs in the United States, the bill also states that the administration should continue its "no quota" policy toward the region on these products.

As I again offer this legislation, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize significant contributions made to this initiative by two of my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee, Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL and Congressman JIM MCDERMOTT, who worked with me throughout the past Congress to build a consensus. To initiate consideration of the issue by the 105th Congress, I have scheduled a hearing on this legislation in the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, which I chair, for Tuesday, April 29. I look forward to listening to the testimony that the subcommittee will receive that day and to continuing to work with my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to move this legislation forward.

IN HONOR OF "LET'S CELEBRATE"—MAKING A DIFFERENCE
IN THE LIVES OF JERSEY CITY
RESIDENTS FOR 15 YEARS**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary organization, "Let's Celebrate," which is committed to making a difference in the lives of the residents of Jersey City. Let's Celebrate's contributions will be recognized during festivities to be held at Casino in the Park Restaurant in North Bergen on April 25, 1997.

The mission of Let's Celebrate was born in 1981 when a small group of Jersey City clergy formed a coalition to combat hunger and homelessness. Their efforts decreased hunger and homelessness in Jersey City. This led to the incorporation of Let's Celebrate as a non-profit organization dedicated to moving people from hunger to wholeness, in 1982. Jersey City residents have become the beneficiaries of the enormous commitment and compassion of the visionaries who founded "Let's Celebrate."

The original mission of Let's Celebrate has been greatly expanded over the past 15 years. The first turn in the road toward self-sufficiency, paved by the efforts of this organization, was the Emergency Food Network, a collection of food pantries focused on meeting the emergency food needs of both individuals and families. Within a short period of time, the need for prepared meals became obvious, due to the number of clients served by Let's Celebrate who did not have access to cooking facilities. Thus, The Square Meal Soup Kitchen was established on December 7, 1983, a day which will long be remembered by those who

have since passed through their doors. Initially located at St. John's Reform Church on Fairview Avenue, The Square Meal moved to Christ Church United Methodist in Journal Square, where it remained until July 1991 when it then relocated to its original, and current, home at St. John's Reform Church.

Later, Let's Celebrate's goal to reduce hunger expanded to include job training. With a major grant from United Parcel Service, as well as additional financial support from Philip Morris, the Job Power program was born. This training program in the culinary arts has graduated 85 students ready to be productive members of the work force. In 1995 Let's Celebrate instituted the Housing Plus program to assist individuals with special medical needs. This invaluable program enables clients to receive medical case management along with help on housing issues. Another service provided by Let's Celebrate is the G.E.D. program located at the Square Meal Community Center, providing area residents the opportunity pursue a high school diploma.

It is an honor to have such an exceptional organization working in my district benefitting the underprivileged of Jersey City. Let's Celebrate has helped enhance the meaning of community service.

TRIBUTE TO PYRAMID ACADEMY
IN MEMPHIS, TN**HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise the achievements of the students, faculty, and the principal of Pyramid Academy in Memphis, TN. Pyramid Academy is an alternative school serving teen mothers and children with behavioral problems. Most of the students at Pyramid come from a world of obstacles and disadvantages. Many of them have been thrown off track by poor choices or a lack of direction.

As its name symbolizes, however, the Pyramid Academy, is giving these young men and women the building blocks they need to rise to the top. The school administrators transformed the way they educate and rehabilitate their students. They moved away from a punitive approach toward a holistic one, focusing on dropout prevention, personal development, responsible parenting, and achievement. Before this transformation, police walked the halls, and in the words of the principal, the school was nothing more than "a holding tank."

Those who doubt or question the power of placing high expectations and standards on our students, need only look to the example set by Pyramid Academy. As evidence, five young ladies from Pyramid Academy won first place in the African-American Knowledge Bowl, sponsored by the Memphis City Schools. I would like to include the names of the Grand Champion Knowledge Bowl team and ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring their achievements: Meisha Harris, Tamika Williams, Edwina Jefferson, Cortisa Thomas and Alicia Currie. These young women are sources of inspiration for the House of Representatives. They are my heroes. I would also like to include, in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, a newspaper article chronicling their achievement.

[From the Commercial Appeal, Apr. 17, 1997]

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PROMOTES

ACHIEVEMENT

(By Regina L. Burns)

A 25-year Memphis City Schools educator, John White, is finding that expelled and board-suspended students, along with teen parents, can be motivated to achieve using high expectations instead of the police and corporal punishment.

White, principal at Pyramid Academy for seven years, points to his school's recent championship at the sixth annual African-American Knowledge Bowl as proof of his philosophy.

"It just made me feel so good. I was just bubbling up with joy," proclaimed White, 53, who pushed for the alternative school's name change from Comprehensive Pupil Services Educational Center.

The April 7 competition at the National Civil Rights Museum was sponsored by the Memphis City Schools Adolescent Parenting Mental Health Team, said Sherry Hardy, a school social worker in the Adolescent Parenting Program.

"The schools that participated are involved in our Rites of Passage effort," explained Hardy. The Rites of Passage program is designed to help young African-American men and women with development and responsibilities as they move toward adulthood.

Dr. Theresa Okwumabusi, supervising psychologist for the Adolescent Parenting Mental Health Team, initiated the Knowledge Bowl and the Rites of Passage program. She said, "The students interacted in a positive way with other children and experienced success in knowing about their culture and their history."

Five students from Pyramid Academy helped bring home the trophy. They are 11th-grader Edwina Jefferson, ninth-grader Alicia Currie, 12th-grader Mlesha Harris, ninth-grader Cortisa Thomas and 11th-grader Tamika Williams. Their teacher is Erma Sanders, a social studies instructor.

The second-place winner is Chickasaw Junior High. Raineshaven Elementary captured third place. Other finalists were Caldwell Elementary, Ida B. Wells Academy and Whitehaven High school, according to Hardy.

"I'm an advocate for having an alternative school in every school. When I came here, this was a holding tank. We changed the name. We got rid of the police. We don't need the police. I think it sends the wrong message," explained White.

He said his school has its share of difficulties but they are minimal. Each morning students and faculty gather at a "daily briefing."

"We reiterate our expectations on a daily basis. We ask any student who feels like rappin', tappin', singing or cursing to come down front. If anyone has had any difficulty, we have someone for them to talk to," he said.

IT'S TIME FOR BILLBOARDS TO PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Billboard Fair Share Act, legislation that would levy a 15 percent tax on the revenue from billboards and direct that money to help pay for our transportation system.

The billboard industry benefits as much as any other industry from our National Highway System. In fact, the industry even charges customers according to the number of cars that pass by the billboard on a given day. Despite its reliance on taxpayer-funded roads, the billboard industry contributes nothing to the construction and maintenance of our Nation's roads. It is time that the billboard industry paid its fair share.

The Billboard Fair Share Act would levy a tax on each billboard of 15 percent of gross revenues generated from the billboard. This is the same amount that billboard companies usually pay a property-owner for the right to construct and maintain the billboard on the property-owner's land. The revenue generated from this tax would be divided between surface transportation and funding for enhancement projects under ISTEA. In both cases, it would be used to improve our national system of roads.

As Congress works to reauthorize ISTEA while balancing the budget, it is important that we ensure that all road users contribute to providing transportation funding. While the billboard industry may not be a traditional road user, it is equally clear that they directly benefit from road construction. In fact, the billboard industry is entirely dependent upon roads.

All highway users must be willing to help build and maintain our Nation's roads. It is time for billboards to pay their fair share.

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR SAN PEDRO CREEK WETLANDS RESTORATION AND FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the President's 1998 budget request for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As you know, the Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of important flood control projects around our Nation. I urge continued support for full funding of the Continuing Authorities Program which will ensure that important flood control projects around our Nation can proceed on schedule. Full funding will also ensure that there will be no delays in construction of projects that have already been started.

Mr. Speaker, I recently presented testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development regarding two local issues important to residents of the San Francisco Bay area. I respectfully request that my testimony appear in the RECORD for the benefit of my colleagues in the House.

TESTIMONY OF CONGRESSMAN LANTOS BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

March 31, 1997

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony to your Subcommittee as you begin to consider the Energy and Water appropriations bill for fiscal year 1998. We in Congress face difficult challenges and painful choices as we work to reduce the federal budget deficit. I applaud your record in this area and you can count on my continued support of serious efforts to

cut wasteful spending. I am delighted to present information regarding two projects important to my community which fall under your Subcommittee's jurisdiction and to urge your continued support for these significant projects.

As you know, the Congressional district that I represent is geographically unique and diverse. My Congressional district comprises the San Francisco Peninsula which is home to the residents of the City of San Francisco and northern and central San Mateo County. The Peninsula is flanked by the Pacific Ocean to the West and by the San Francisco Bay to the east. Steep coastal mountains run up the middle of the Peninsula.

To the east of these mountains are the densely populated cities of San Mateo County which are located along the San Francisco Bay. The Bay front itself consists of the San Francisco International Airport, Candlestick Park, light industry, salt flats and the Port of Redwood City. Residential neighborhoods and commercial areas lie between the Bay front and the mountain ridges. To the west of the mountains, which follow the San Andreas fault, are the coastal communities of San Mateo County, including Pacifica, which lie on the Pacific Ocean.

The City of Pacifica is located a few miles south of the City of San Francisco. It is surrounded by the Central Coast Ranges and by the Pacific Ocean. City limits include three ridge systems and their adjacent valleys and hillsides, set against a coastline of beaches and rugged headlands. San Pedro Creek has the largest drainage area and flows four miles through the narrow San Pedro Valley and the Linda Mar District to the Pacific Ocean. Linda Mar is the most populous of several seaside communities in Pacifica. This area has experienced numerous floods in recent history with flood damage occurring mostly in the lowest reaches of the creek.

San Pedro Creek has historically flooded on a 10-year cycle. The mountains and hills around San Pedro Valley are steep and rainfall and runoff can be rapid and intense. Currently, the lower reaches of the San Pedro Creek channel can contain within its banks, at maximum, an 8- to 10-year runoff event. The last major flooding occurred there in 1982 when more than 300 homes were flooded and more than \$5 million of damage occurred.

The City of Pacifica has been working closely with the US Army Corps of Engineers for more than 15 years in developing a flood control project to provide 100 year flood control protection in the Linda Mar Valley. A number of plans were originally proposed, but were stalled due to lack of funding and environmental concerns. Two alternative projects were considered as possible solutions to the flood problem. However, due to environmental concerns and prohibitive mitigation requirements associated with either alternative, a third alternative was developed by the City and residents in the community. This alternative would consist of a diversion structure, an underground bypass channel, a floodwall, and the creation of a wetland-flood basin.

The City and the Corps now propose to restore the tidally-influenced, freshwater wetlands associated with the lower reach of San Pedro Creek to provide flood control in the Linda Mar District of Pacifica. The restoration design as proposed will restore 10.1 acres of one of the rarest wetland types on the Pacific coast of North America. The project will also enhance a significant fisheries resource, i.e., a steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) run, and restore wildlife habitats for migratory waterfowl and other associated wildlife.

Mr. Chairman, the San Pedro Creek Wetlands Restoration and Flood Control Project

is truly a local and federal government partnership model. As of March 1997, the federal government has invested over \$600,000 toward the development of a solution to flooding problems in the Linda Mar district of the City of Pacifica. The City of Pacifica has contributed \$537,000. These funds have been used to complete the planning phases of study for the proposed project. In order to complete the project, a final design phase will be required. This will be followed by acquisition of real estate by the City and construction of the project. The City plans to invest \$13 million in real estate acquisition and \$475,000 in design and construction. The Federal contribution for design and construction is estimated to be only \$4.425 million.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to provide you with an update on the future actions that are necessary to complete this very important and much-needed flood control project. The technical analysis is essentially complete for the San Pedro Creek flood control feasibility study. Completion of the Environmental impact Statement Report (EIS/R) and main report is contingent upon receipt of the US Fish and Wildlife Service biological opinion regarding the potential impact on the recently listed California red-legged frog. Recent communications with the Fish and Wildlife Service indicated no significant changes to the proposed design will be required. The Feasibility Study and EIS/R is expected to be completed in Spring 1997. It is expected that the initial plans and specifications will be completed in the Summer of 1997. Construction is expected to commence in FY 1998.

Mr. Chairman, during the recent series of devastating storms and floods in the West and in California this winter, residents in Linda Mar received alarming warning notices from the City of Pacifica urging them to prepare to evacuate their homes. Fortunately, residents were spared the heaviest and most devastating rains of these storms and San Pedro Creek did not flood. History tells us, however, that it is only a matter of time until the next flood. It is imperative that we provide funding for flood control before the next significant flood. I urge the full funding of the San Pedro Creek Wetlands Restoration and Flood Control Project.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to address another project in my region over which your Subcommittee has jurisdiction. Although the Port of Redwood City is no longer in my Congressional district (due to redistricting in 1992), the continued success of the Port nonetheless does have an impact on the economy of the region.

As you know, due to the shallow nature of San Francisco Bay, maintenance dredging of the Bay is necessary to ensure safe navigation of ocean-going ships. The Port of Redwood City currently has an authorized depth of 30 feet. It is currently on a 3-year dredging cycle to maintain this authorized depth. The most recent maintenance dredging of Redwood City Harbor was completed in September 1996 to 30 feet. The next maintenance dredging is scheduled for March 1999.

There is concern that the new, larger vessels which call on the Port require more than 30 feet of draft. These vessels are forced to light load and top off at other ports—significantly adding to the cost of calling on the Port. There is concern that this will significantly reduce the commercial viability of the Port. I urge you to support a reconnaissance study to determine the federal interests, costs, benefits and environmental impacts of deepening Redwood City Harbor.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your support and for the opportunity to provide you with information concerning these important projects.

IN HONOR OF LA TRIBUNA NEWSPAPER: CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO NEW JERSEY'S HISPANIC COMMUNITY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly special occasion, the 35th anniversary of La Tribuna newspaper. This momentous event in my State's journalism community will be recognized at a gala banquet to be held Friday, April 25, 1997, at the Fiesta Restaurant in Wood-Ridge, NJ.

In 1962, large numbers of Hispanic immigrants began relocating to New Jersey. At that time, few newspapers were being published in their native language. La Tribuna was one of the first news sources committed to keeping the Spanish-speaking community in touch with its government and the rest of the world.

For 35 years, La Tribuna has shone light on daily events affecting the Hispanic community. Part of the foundation of the U.S. Constitution is freedom of the press. La Tribuna brings this ideal to life for the Hispanic community on a weekly basis through the paper's commitment to truth and fairness. Whenever and wherever news happens, La Tribuna is at the forefront of articulating events in a concise, no-nonsense manner.

Under the direction of publisher and editor Ruth Molenaar, La Tribuna has grown to be a well-respected member of New Jersey's news community. The people of my district, and New Jersey are fortunate to have Ms. Molenaar and her staff, including Lionel Rodriguez, providing fair and accurate news coverage. They have been a reliable voice for the Hispanic community for almost two generations.

It is an honor to have La Tribuna operating in my district. Its efforts have helped our Nation's Hispanic community to blossom and flourish. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this remarkable organization for all it has done for the Hispanic community.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID BROWN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Brown who this week was named Citizen of the Year by the Las Virgenes Homeowners Association. Mr. Brown has been an outspoken advocate in our community for 25 years, and recognition of his good work is long overdue.

Mr. Brown has used his multitude of talents to work in areas as diverse as teaching, writing, publishing, and as a planning commissioner and citizen activist. Fortunately, he has seen fit to use his talents for the greater good of our local community. Dave brings to his work a rare blend of expertise and a tireless spirit of volunteerism. Although he has given freely of his time and resources to many worthy causes, his top priority has always been protection of the Santa Monica Mountains.

His dedication to protect the Santa Monicas is unparalleled. He has played various roles in

his effort to protect the mountains, from serving on the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Planning Commission Advisory Committee, the Sierra Club's Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, and the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council Board. Dave has done extensive work on monthly newsletters which served to defend the mountains from over development.

Mr. Brown has indeed been a lifelong steward of the Santa Monica Mountains, ensuring that this natural sanctuary will be available for generations to come.

HELP CLEAN UP OUR HIGHWAYS

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Visual Pollution Reduction Act, legislation that would reduce the clutter of billboards along our Nation's roads and highways.

Today, Scenic America released a report entitled "The Highway Beautification Act—A Broken Law." The report detailed how, despite the Highway Beautification Act, the number of billboards along our Nation's highways has continued to grow. Each year 5,000 to 15,000 additional billboards are built. Billboards that do not conform to States and local zoning ordinances continue to clutter our Nation's roads. In addition, State highway departments subsidize the billboard industry by operating permitting programs that lose money and use taxpayer funds to cut down trees to improve billboard visibility.

Billboards destroy the scenic beauty of our countryside and the architectural beauty of our inner cities. Billboards sell liquor and cigarettes to our Nation's children, especially in inner-city neighborhoods and poor communities. Billboards are visual pollution.

For this reason, I am introducing the Visual Pollution Reduction Act. This bill would prohibit new billboards in unzoned, rural areas. It would place a cap, at the current level, on the total number of billboards permitted in a State. And, it would prohibit States from removing trees and other vegetation to make a billboard more visible.

The Highway Beautification Act is broken. We must fix it. I hope that Congress will do the right thing and pass the Visual Pollution Reduction Act. America's highways would be visibly improved.

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to salute my alma mater, West Chester University, on the occasion of its 125th anniversary. On September 25, 1871, Principal Ezekiel Cook welcomed the first class of students to West Chester University, then known as the West Chester Normal School. Since that first year

when the Normal School was made up of only 156 students, the principal, and 11 faculty members, West Chester University has blossomed and expanded as a provider of quality education for today's young people.

Today, more than 10,000 undergraduate students and nearly 2,000 graduate students are enrolled at West Chester University, receiving an affordable quality education. In fact, West Chester University is now the second largest of the institutions that make up Pennsylvania's State system of higher education.

The university offers these students a wide variety of educational opportunities, including degrees in the arts and sciences, teacher training and certification, continuing education classes for adults, and advance study in medicine, law, and education. In fact, I am so convinced of the superior educational offerings of my alma mater that I didn't hesitate when two of my three daughters told me that they wanted to attend West Chester University.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a graduate of this fine institution. I am confident West Chester University will continue to bring a high-quality education experience to the community as well as the entire Delaware Valley. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating West Chester University on 125 years of excellence in education.

IN THE HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF NORTH HUDSON, INC.

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly altruistic organization, the Kiwanis Club of North Hudson, Inc., as it celebrates the 75th anniversary of its charter which was signed on March 1, 1922. This milestone in the history of the North Hudson, New Jersey area will be remembered at a gathering on April 26, 1997 at Louis Restaurant in Union City.

Kiwanis Clubs throughout the United States have a long history of service to their communities. The Kiwanis Club of North Hudson is certainly no exception. Over the past 75 years, the men and women of this organization have endeavored to make the lives of area residents a little brighter through their selfless dedication to those in need. Their commitment to excellence was cemented with the dedication of Kiwanis Plaza on September 27, 1994, located on Bergenline Avenue in Union City.

The Kiwanis Club of North Hudson has made a profound impact on the lives of community members fortunate enough to have benefited from its charitable endeavors. Municipalities throughout the area have seen their residents obtain scholarships and other financial assistance through funds raised by the devoted members of this group. The kind efforts of Kiwanis Club members will long be remembered.

The diamond anniversary of the Kiwanis Club of North Hudson celebrates the extraordinary contributions of the club's living past presidents. A roll of presidents will take place, where all members will be honored for their unique contributions to the history of this exemplary organization.

It is an honor to have a notable organization such as the Kiwanis Club of North Hudson serving the residents of my district. It is a shining example of community service at its best.

DEDICATION OF HERMAN TALMADGE HIGHWAY

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to a former distinguished member of the U.S. Congress. I speak of Herman Eugene Talmadge, U.S. Senator from the State of Georgia, former chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and vice chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. On Wednesday, April 23, 1997, I had the honor of delivering the keynote address at the dedication of the Herman Talmadge Highway in Hampton, GA. I wish to enter those remarks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in honor of Senator Herman Talmadge.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MAC COLLINS, ON THE DEDICATION OF HERMAN TALMADGE HIGHWAY, HAMPTON, GA, APRIL 23, 1997

It is not only a privilege but a pleasure to be here today with so many of Georgia's past and present leaders to honor a special man. I want to extend a special thank you to Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irving for acting as our Master of Ceremonies today and also to my good friend Rogers Wade who was responsible for organizing this wonderful event. As many of you know, Rogers was the Chief-of-Staff to our honoree for many years. Rogers took the lessons he learned from him to become one of Georgia's premier governmental specialists.

I also want to recognize my friend Wayne Shackelford. His leadership as Commissioner of Transportation has given Georgia one of the best highway systems in the nation. And last, but certainly not least, I know all of you will join with me in thanking the Honorable Zell Miller, Governor of the Great State of Georgia, for the outstanding job he has done over the past six years.

Governor, the legacy you will leave includes a state that is recognized as a leader in helping people move from welfare rolls to payrolls; a state that provides a better education for our children; and a state that is responsible and accountable to its citizens. For this, we owe you our gratitude.

I know that you, as well as everyone here today, has admired the man we are here to honor. His distinguished career has included serving his nation as a Naval officer during World War II, as Governor, and a United States Senator. The Honorable Herman Talmadge, a son of Georgia. While Herman Talmadge rose to great heights in our nation's government, he never forgot where he came from or whom he represented.

Herman Talmadge has always been the champion of rural America. During his long career as a public servant, he stood for every American who has farmed an acre of land or run the family-owned business found in small towns across rural America. He worked for all Americans who worked with their hands and their backs to earn an honest living and provide a home for their families.

Herman Talmadge knows these people. But more importantly, he genuinely cares for them. He was born and raised in rural McRae, Georgia, where the majority of people made their living by farming, or operat-

ing or working for small businesses located around the town square. He lived what many people only talk about today—family values, love of God and Country, community service, and the pride and rewards of work.

His love of politics and the desire to help the people came naturally. His father, Gene Talmadge, was elected Governor of Georgia four times. Following his graduation from the University of Georgia School of Law, a young Herman Talmadge was tapped to run his father's campaign for the United States Senate. Gene Talmadge lost to the incumbent Senator but went on to win his third term as Governor two years later. And his son was right there with him. Herman Talmadge gained valuable hands-on experience and state-wide contacts that would serve him well in the years to come.

Following the campaign, he joined the United States Naval Reserve and was commissioned an ensign. During World War II, his bravery and courage were demonstrated time and again as he requested transfer from state-side duty to the Pacific theater. There, he took part in the invasion of Guadalcanal, the battle of Okinawa and other encounters with the Japanese Fleet. On V-J Day, Lieutenant Commander Herman Talmadge entered Tokyo Bay with the U.S. Navy forces.

After the war, he returned home and managed his father's last campaign. In 1946, the Honorable Gene Talmadge was elected to his fourth term as Governor of Georgia. But prior to taking office, the Governor-elect passed away. The vacancy left by the death of Gene Talmadge resulted in what can only be called an "interesting" political situation in Georgia. Herman Talmadge was elected by the Georgia House of Representatives to fill the term won by his father. But the incumbent Governor and just-elected Lieutenant Governor also claimed the chief Executive's office. Eventually, the State Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Lieutenant Governor.

In 1948, Herman Talmadge left the shadow of his famous father and launched his own political career by running for the office his father had won four times. He campaigned on issues that were the hallmarks of his career in the Governor's office and the United States Senate. When he won, he carried through on his promises to help the rural areas of Georgia.

As the nation's then youngest Governor, Herman Talmadge launched a campaign to modernize his state. He built roads and bridges to link the vast stretches of rural Georgia. He built hospitals in rural areas where there were none before. These facilities brought health care to an entire class of people who had little or no access to medical care. The new Governor deeply believed in education. He built new schools for our children and dedicated a portion of the sales tax to increasing teacher salaries.

But no matter what projects Gov. Herman Talmadge built or what programs he implemented, he did so only if the State of Georgia could afford them and pay for them. He was a deficit hawk long before that term became popular.

In 1956, he won a seat in the United States Senate where he continued his work—only now it was for all Americans. As Chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Forestry and Nutrition Committee, Senator Talmadge was responsible for the passage of many laws that revitalized rural America and greatly improved the quality of life for all our citizens. As his former Senate colleague, Robert Byrd of West Virginia, so eloquently stated in 1980, the legislation crafted by Herman Talmadge is the "blueprint for the entire structure of our agricultural, rural development and nutrition policies."

Senator Talmadge believed that no child or adult should go hungry in a country that

produces enough food to feed the world. But he saw poverty and hunger in many areas of our nation. He saw men and women, parents and families fighting to make a living in rural areas that were losing population and business to the cities. He also saw that same hunger and poverty in the faces of those who had migrated to the cities to try and better their lives and the lives of their families.

To combat this tragedy, Senator Talmadge authored legislation to ensure no American would go hungry. He wrote the law establishing the school lunch program. He helped to develop the food stamp program for needy individuals and families. At their inception, Senator Talmadge ensured these programs would help those who needed the help. He also believed that these programs should help those who helped themselves. Herman Talmadge was raised with a strong work ethic and he supported provisions to the law that able-bodied people should work for these benefits. Senator Talmadge did not want federal assistance to become a way of life for any American.

Senator Talmadge created an Agriculture Subcommittee to focus on the problems and opportunities of rural America. Through his leadership, Congress passed legislation that provided low interest loans to local governments for sewers, water treatment plants and health facilities. He also worked to pass legislation providing industrial development loans to local governments which they used as "seed" money to attract industrial projects to rural areas. I would like everyone here to note the fact that these programs were not federal "give-aways." The money provided to local governments and rural communities was paid back to the federal treasury—with interest.

As I have pointed out, Senator Talmadge has always been a guardian of the people's money. As a member of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, he supported legislation to eliminate fraud and abuse in the Federal Medicare and Medicaid programs. Senator Talmadge saw early on the potential costs of these programs to American taxpayers and worked to bring accountability to them.

I think it is appropriate we note that Senator Talmadge firmly believed that the federal government, like its state counterparts, should balance its budget every year. He supported a 1973 Constitutional amendment to prohibit the federal government from spending more than it took in—except in a Congressionally declared national emergency. In 1976, Senator Talmadge introduced a resolution calling for a balanced budget. He said that continued unrestricted spending would bring the nation to bankruptcy.

If Congress had heeded the wisdom of Senator Talmadge and acted upon his budget proposals, America's government and economy would be more financially secure. We who serve in Congress today, are working to enact the legislation proposed by Herman Talmadge over twenty years ago. We are working to balance the federal budget. We are working to save Medicare and Medicaid from the fraud and abuse that drains its precious financial resources. We are working to see that our children and grandchildren can grow up in an America that allows them to achieve their dreams.

Senator Herman Talmadge was a giant among giants in the United States Senate. He counseled Presidents and world leaders. He crafted and helped to pass legislation that has enhanced and enriched the lives of all Americans. And let none of us forget, Herman Talmadge and his colleagues also made our country strong in the face of communist aggression. Their courage in facing that threat allowed the United States to finally win the cold war and make our world a safer place to live.

For three decades, Herman Talmadge served Georgia and America. But he not only served, he led. That is the mark of a great public servant. And while Herman Talmadge achieved great power and success, he tempered it with grace, wisdom, compassion and a love for the people who elected him to high office.

We all owe Senator Talmadge our appreciation and our gratitude for dedicating his life to public service. He touched the lives of every Georgian and millions of Americans. He is truly a special man and he is very special to me. Thank you and God Bless you Senator.

THE WORKERS MEMORIAL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, April 25, 1997, the officers and delegates of the Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, will hold their 23d Annual Labor Awards and Community Service Banquet at the Knights of Columbus Hall in East Chicago, IN. This event honors those individuals who have provided outstanding service to labor and the community. It also serves as the Federation's "Workers Memorial", activity recognizing those who have been seriously injured or killed in the workplace. This event is northwest Indiana's largest labor celebration of the year, involving 45,000 member unionists and their friends. Participants will gather together to celebrate an evening of labor solidarity.

The Federation's highest honor, the 16th Annual President's Award, will be bestowed upon the Honorable Robert A. Pastrick, mayor of the city of East Chicago. This honor is awarded to an individual enhancing the well being of workers throughout northwest Indiana by countless contributions which have furthered the philosophy of the labor movement. In addition, Mr. John Buncich, Lake County sheriff, will be this year's recipient of the annual Service to Labor Award. This award is presented in honor of an individual's dedicated service and support to the labor movement. The Federation's Community Services Award will be presented to Mr. Ed Hiatt for offering both organized labor and the people of northwest Indiana dedicated leadership, compassion and service. Mr. Hiatt assisted with various Federation of Labor projects, including union counseling and the AFL-CIO Christmas Drive.

In addition, two members of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees [SOAR], Mr. John Mayerik, age 89, and Mr. Walter Mackerel, age 96, will be honored with the "Old Warrior" Award. This award is presented in recognition of the recipients' lifelong commitment to the labor movement and the principles which it embodies. Specifically, Mr. Mayerik served as president of Local Union 1014 and staff representative of the United Steelworkers of America. Presently, he is serving as trustee of SOAR Chapter 7-31-14. Mr. Mackerel actively served Local Union 1066, and he was instrumental in establishing and leading the retiree organization in District 7 of the United Steelworkers of America. Both gentlemen have unselfishly devoted their time and effort to assisting both individuals and the

communities in which they live for a number of years.

Also, the Federation's Union Label Award will be presented to the United Steelworkers of America, District 7. District 7 will be awarded this honor for demonstrating the true meaning of labor "solidarity" during the Bridgestone Firestone labor struggle. USWA, District 7 has been attributed with providing the leadership and commitment needed to win this fight for labor, as well as revitalizing the entire labor movement in northwest Indiana.

Each year, the Lake and Porter County area United Ways join with the Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, to conduct an 8-week basic union counselor training course. Upon completion of this program, those participating will be qualified to provide the labor community with invaluable information concerning available health and human services assistance. This year's counselor course participants will each receive a certificate of achievement at the awards banquet. They include: Jack Atwood, James Dilbeck, and Bruce Foreman from UAW #2335; William J. Brady and John F. Martinez from Carpenters #1005; David Brock and Andrew Cummins from Boilermakers #524; Duke Defflorio and Mike Winarski from Carpenters #599; James Dilbeck and Bruce Foreman from UAW #2335; Denise Drake, Lillian Garth, and Linda Shedrow from Consumer Credit C.S.; Hilario G. Gonzalez from USWA #1010; Jon L. Iglar and Herbertine Peck from AFSCME #1448; Jack Joyce, Robert Milsap, and Lon C. Powe from USWA #1014; Andrew J. Kremke and Joaquin Lopez from Teamsters #142; Lee Lynk, UAW 3235; Jessica Morris, Community Representative; Thomas Parker from USWA #1066; and Isacc R. Rosado from USWA #2281.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending all of the award recipients chosen by the Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, for their contributions to the labor movement. Their devotion to this cause has made America work.

INTRODUCTION OF TWO MAJOR EDUCATION BILLS

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two major education bills that address both elementary and secondary, and higher education.

Last week I cosponsored President Clinton's Hope Scholarship proposal because I support the President's commitment to help parents finance their kids' education. Admittedly, I have concerns that the President's plan does not provide enough assistance for low-income families.

My view is that the most fair and effective way to improve college access and affordability for low-income families is through strengthening the Pell Grant program. That is why today I will introduce the College Access and Affordability Act of 1997.

As the chart to my immediate right illustrates, the value of Pell Grants has substantially decreased in recent years. In current dollars, the value of the maximum Pell Grant was

over \$4,000. Sadly, it is only \$2,700 today. Our bill increases the maximum Pell Grant through mandatory spending to \$3,300 for fiscal year 1998, and \$300 a year thereafter, through fiscal year 2002. The net effect of the fiscal year 1998 increase would be that 3.6 million additional students would receive an increase of up to \$600, and an additional 215,000 families would become newly eligible for Pell.

My bill contains a number of other very important features including elimination of student loan origination fees, loan forgiveness for students who take teaching jobs in low-income public schools, and extension of special rules afforded historically black colleges and universities with regard to participation in student loan programs, and also included in here is a change to the Pell needs analysis that will help older, independent students and students working their way through college.

My second proposal addresses the growing movement in local communities to recognize that some of our public schools need renewal. Those pushing vouchers are capitalizing on growing parental anxiety about their children's education. As a supporter of public schools, I am not content with just saying no to vouchers. Therefore, the second bill I will introduce today is the Public Schools Renewal and Improvement Act of 1997. Here are some of its key features: A local consortium, composed of the local educational agency and a group of parents, students, representatives of teachers and school employees, community and business leaders and others, may submit a request to the President for a declaration that a major public schools renewal effort is underway in that community.

As part of its request, the consortium must prepare and submit a 3-year locally inspired public schools renewal plan that spells out specific details concerning the consortium's commitment to public school renewal in such areas as parental involvement, training of teachers, administrators and counselors, technology enhancements, school and classroom safety, and truancy and drop-out prevention.

The President, along with the Secretary of Education, may approve the consortium's request for assistance and may direct various types of Federal assistance, including not just dollars, but also equipment, infrastructure improvements, et cetera.

My bill is a 3-year effort and I am requesting \$750 million for the first and second years. I intend to pursue passage of both bills at every opportunity, including work on the budget and higher education reauthorization.

THE COLLEGE ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 1997 BILL SUMMARY

Increases Pell Grants. The bill increases the maximum Pell Grant through mandatory spending to \$3,300 for FY 1998, and \$300 a year thereafter through FY 2002. The FY 98 increase would make over 3.6 million students eligible to receive an increase of up to \$600 and make an additional 215,000 families newly eligible for Pell grants.

The value of Pell grants has substantially decreased in recent years as appropriation levels have lagged behind increases in college costs and authorization levels. Ten years ago, Pell grants covered an average of 55 percent of a student's college costs at a public university. Today, it covers less than 40 percent. The bill will greatly enhance access and affordability to millions of low income students pursuing higher education.

Eliminates Student Fees. Student origination fees are reduced from 3 percent to 2 per-

cent on July 1, 1998; to 1 percent in 2000; to zero after January 1, 2002. The current 1 percent insurance premium is eliminated on July 1, 1998. These savings will provide significant benefits to all students, and will provide additional funds to borrowers up front, at the time the loan funds are needed to pay for the cost of attendance.

Provides Loan Forgiveness for New Teachers. The bill allows new teachers in Title I school with a high concentration of poor students (30 percent) to have their Direct or FFEL loans forgiven. Eligible teachers would have 15 percent of their loans forgiven in the first and second years of teaching; 20 percent in the third and fourth year; and 30 percent in the fifth year. The amount of the loan forgiveness is not considered "income" for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code.

Helps Older, Independent Students and Dependent Students. The bill proposes substantial improvements in the way financial need is established for disadvantaged independent students who do not have dependents other than a spouse. The bill increases the living offset (the amount of income allotted for the student's living expenses) for single students (and married students if both are enrolled in college) from \$3,000 to \$6,000, and \$9,000 for married students where one is enrolled. The allowance is adjusted for inflation in future years. The bill also increases the dependent student earning allowance from the current level of \$1,750 to \$4,200. The current earning allowance is too low and is a disincentive to student employment. The change helps a category of low income students who were adversely affected by the 1992 higher education reauthorization.

Protects Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The bill extends the date (to October 1, 2002) that HBCU's with high default rates are exempted from disqualification in student loan programs. Without the exception, the Department's default prevention policies will have an adverse effect upon 4 year colleges and universities which serve large percentages of minority students.

Reduces Interest Rates for Unsubsidized Loans. The bill reduces the applicable interest rate on all subsidized and unsubsidized FFEL and Direct Loans during in-school, grace, and deferment periods to the same rate as the Department of Education's own borrowing rate, although the interest rates would be capped at the same levels as current law. The change will reduce Federal costs by reducing excess profits to lenders during times when there are few servicing costs associated with subsidized loans, but the highest profit margins.

Guaranty Agencies and Lenders. The bill proposes a number of changes to the FFEL guaranty agency system in recognition that these State and private nonprofit entities are not the ultimate guarantors of FFEL and act only as administrative agents of the Federal government. Because the Federal government is the sole insurer of FFEL loans, the Secretary would undertake the obligation to pay lenders directly using his agents and recall guaranty agency reserves over the next five years, saving some \$2.5 billion.

To address structural deficiencies that hamper default prevention activities, guaranty agencies would be authorized to retain no more than 18.5 percent of default collections—comparable to the Department's cost of collections. To further encourage default prevention, lender risk-sharing would be increased from 2 percent to 5 percent.

Direct Lending and FFEL Loan Provisions. The bill allows FFEL borrowers to have the same extended and graduated repayment options currently available only to Direct Loan borrowers. The bill also makes a number of changes that make FFEL consolidation loans more comparable to Direct consolida-

tion loans, thus reducing cost for, and providing greater flexibility to, FFEL borrowers.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS RENEWAL AND IMPROVEMENT ACT

SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY

Sec. 1. Short Title.

Cites the bill as the "Public Schools Renewal and Improvement Act of 1997."

Sec. 2. Findings and Purposes.

Findings—Sets forth a number of Congressional findings, among them:

The fact that many of our nation's public schools need assistance and resources to achieve immediate reform.

Ongoing reform of underachieving schools demonstrates the promise of public school reform when parents, students, teachers, school administrators and business and community leaders join forces.

The Federal government should encourage locally-based, public school reform efforts.

Purpose—The purpose of the bill is to assist local communities that have taken the initiative to renew their public school systems.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

Defines "local schools consortium" to mean the LEA and a group of other stakeholders, including parents, teachers, students, and community and business leaders.

Defines other relevant items.

Sec. 4. Procedure for Assistance Declaration.

A local school's consortium may submit a request to the President seeking Federal aid (dollars and other resources) to complement indigenous 3-year public school reform plans. The plan is submitted through the State's Governor, who must pass the request along to the President within 30 days. The Governor may or may not choose to comment on the request.

The President shall review the request, in consultation with the Secretary of Education. If the President is satisfied that the request meets the requirements and conditions spelled out in the legislation, the President may declare that "a major education renewal effort is underway" in that LEA, and authorize and coordinate a range of Federal assistance. Requires the consortium to submit annual updates and progress reports.

Sec. 5. Plan.

A major component of the request for assistance is a locally-developed public schools renewal plan that must:

(1) Spell out the "adverse conditions" confronting that community's public schools, which conditions must constitute one of the following:

A substantial number of students have been failing to meet certain national or state benchmarks in basic skills.

The schools have severe overcrowding or physical plant conditions that threaten health and safety.

There are substantial shortages in certified teachers, training opportunities and instructional materials.

Schools are located in areas where crime is so prevalent that student achievement suffers.

(2) Provide a host of "assurances" concerning the commitment of the consortium to genuine public school reform, including:

That the consortium developed the plan after extensive consultation with state education officials, teachers, parents, business and community leaders and other public education stakeholders.

That improved parental involvement in the public schools will be addressed.

That there will be regular, objective evaluation of the plan.

That use of funds and other resources provided under the plan will be prioritized to address overcrowding and school infrastructure problems, improved teacher certification and training, readiness for technology, and health and safety concerns.

That the State or local government will match Federal resources (unless the President waives matching requirements).

That funds received will supplement, not supplant, other Federal and non-Federal resources.

Sec. 6. Federal Assistance.

The President may authorize the Department of Education and other Federal agencies to provide personnel, educational equipment and facilities, and other services to an LEA to which the President has made the requisite declaration.

The Secretary of Education may be directed by the President to distribute money and other resources to selected LEAs. The Secretary is required to determine the best way to distribute funds through personnel and procedures applicable to existing Federal elementary and secondary education programs.

General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) provision apply.

Sec. 7. Use of Assistance—Allowable Reforms.

Broadly spells out the kinds of reforms the plan must address in order to receive a Presidential stamp of approval.

School-based reforms—including increased early childhood education, comprehensive parent training, intensive truancy prevention programs, new and alternative schools for dropouts, and enhanced special needs assistance (e.g. ESL students and students with disabilities).

Classroom focused development—including teacher and principal training academies, recruitment programs at area colleges and universities, stronger links between local law enforcement, schools, and parents, and teacher-mentor programs.

Accountability reforms—including higher learning standards and meaningful assessments, monitoring schools and determining how to more effectively employ resources, and promotion and graduation requirements (particularly in the basics).

Sec. 8. Duration of Assistance.

Provides that assistance is available for FY 1998–2000.

Sec. 9. Report.

Requires the Secretary of Education to submit a report to relevant committees of Congress regarding progress under the Act.

Sec. 10. Authorization of Appropriations.

Authorizes \$250 million for FY 1998, \$500 million for FY 1999, and “such sums” for FY 2000.

Grants the Secretary of Education regulatory authority to determine matching requirements for non-monetary Federal resources.

Grants the Secretary waiver authority with regard to matching requirements.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL COMMUNITY THEATER WEEK

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring National Community Theater Week, which is being celebrated April 19 to 26, to the attention of my colleagues.

The year 1997 marks the second annual National Community Theater Week. This very special celebration, sponsored by the American Association of Community Theater [AACT] in cooperation with Stage Directions magazine, is being held to recognize the contributions of countless volunteers in thousands of community theaters across the country.

Local events are the core of National Community Theater Week because they bring the most recognition to the performing arts. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the staff and volunteers of the Bilingual Center for the Performing Arts for their contributions to the Inland Empire. Without their effort and work, performing arts programs would be affordable to only the wealthy in their community.

Arts and culture are a vital part of human existence and the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the arts should be open to all of our citizens. As a member of AACT, the Bilingual Center for the Performing Arts strives to raise the level of public consciousness and the value and importance of performing arts to the people of the Inland Empire.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work that performing artists, not only in the Inland Empire, but across the country have put into National Community Theater Week. Let us help them celebrate the contributions performing arts provide to our society. Congratulations and best wishes to all for a most successful week and a most successful year of performing arts.

SWEATSHOP WORKERS SHOULD NOT BRING DAUGHTERS TO WORK

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today across the country parents took their daughters to work. There is one group of workers, however, that does not celebrate taking their young children to work. I bring to your attention this article that appeared in the New York Times. The article reminds us that sweatshops and child labor are a reality in our country.

Let us give our daughters positive goals to strive for. At the same time, though, let us work together to fight sweatshops and child exploitation.

[From the New York Times, Apr. 23, 1997]

TAKE DAUGHTERS TO WORK? UNION OFFERS
ANOTHER IDEA

(By Steven Greenhouse)

Upset that so many New York garment factories still use child labor, the nation's largest clothing union has come up with a novel approach to combat this longstanding problem—it is called Don't Bring Our Daughters to Work Day.

While the union says it applauds the American parents who will take their daughters to work tomorrow to excite them about potential careers, the garment union will spend the day telling thousands of garment workers, many of them struggling immigrants from China, not to take their daughters to work tomorrow, or any other day for that matter.

The campaign seeks to draw attention to the sweatshop conditions by capitalizing on the growing prominence of Take Our Daughters to Work Day. In fliers and educational

meetings, the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees is warning garment workers who let their daughters work in garment factories that such child labor is often illegal and dangerous.

“Child labor in the shops is a serious problem, especially in the summer,” said Danyun Feng, coordinator of the don't Bring Our Daughters program. “Unfortunately, these children are very easy to exploit, and their wages are usually very low.”

The union is pushing this program because it thinks child labor is wrong and hurts youngsters, and it asserts that child labor undercuts union wage scales. It also recognizes that campaigning against such violations could make the union more popular among the Chinese-American workers it is seeking to unionize.

The child labor campaign is concentrated in two Chinese-American neighborhoods where garment factories flourish: Chinatown in Manhattan and Sunset Park in Brooklyn.

“Child labor has been a source of heartache for garment workers past and present,” said May Ying Chen, assistant manager of Local 23-25, representing 24,000 New York garment workers.

Ms. Feng said garment workers often tell her that they have little alternative but to take their daughters to work on Saturdays or summer days. They often take 3-year-olds who play next to their sewing machines and frequently take 13-year-olds who are employed at nearby machines.

“They tell us they are low-income families who have to work very hard and need almost everybody in the family to help earn money,” Ms. Feng said.

The campaign aims not just to discourage children from working but also to develop ways for children to spend their nonschool days somewhere other than a clothing factory. Last summer, the union funneled some teen-agers into a voter registration drive.

This summer, the union hopes to establish a program in which teen-agers can take courses, care for children and clean neighborhoods.

Union officials feared that the Ms. Foundation for Women, which sponsors the nationwide Take Our Daughters to Work Day, would attack their program for mocking the name of the national effort. But Marie Wilson, president of the Ms. Foundation, said: “I think it's great. When we created this day, it was really to call attention to the conditions in which girls live. This day is all about respecting your daughter, and that's what this program does.”

Union officials acknowledge that part of the Don't Bring Our Daughters drive is intended to encourage the children of garment workers to aspire to better-paying, more stimulating careers. The union also wants to make sure children appreciate how hard their parents toil and how bad factory conditions often are.

“Of course, we want our children to get better jobs than we have,” said Chung Siu, a garment district seamstress. “They should go to college. We hate these garment shops.”

ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS WEEK

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week. In 1985, Congress set aside this week to promote a greater understanding about the lifesaving benefits of organ donation.

This week is about many things. It is about educating people about the organ donor program. It is about encouraging people to consider organ donations. And, it is about recognizing those people who have given this gift of life.

Last year, 121 people in New Jersey donated organs, making 315 lifesaving transplant operations possible. However, Mr. Speaker, we need to do so much more.

There are more than 51,000 people in the United States awaiting organ transplants, nearly 1,000 residents in my State of New Jer-

sey alone. Tragically, many of these people will die before they are able to receive a transplant due to the shortage of available donor organs.

Mr. Speaker, I am a member of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus. Diabetes is the leading cause of heart disease, stroke, amputations, blindness and kidney disease. It is the single most prevalent chronic illness among children.

Any person living with diabetes knows that there may come a day when they will develop renal disease, which will necessitate a trans-

plant. We must make sure, when there is a need for a kidney transplant or for a cornea transplant to restore sight, that an organ is available.

Each one of us has a unique opportunity to help our fellow citizens. By signing an organ donor card, as I have, we are able to give the most precious of gifts to another human being. It may be the gift of sight; it may be the gift of life.

During this week, I urge all of my colleagues to give very serious consideration to signing an organ donor card.